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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Aspire and Autism Services, Inc. Announce Program Partnership

*Aspire of WNY and Autism Services, Inc. are collaborating on a program designed to provide students with autism an opportunity to learn vocational skills in real life settings.*

Buffalo, NY – Aspire of WNY and Autism Services Inc., proudly announce a collaborative effort to introduce high school students to the “World of Work”. Based on Aspire’s successful “World of Work” (WOW) program, eight students currently supported by Autism Services will receive vocational opportunities in their community.

While students are in the workplace, they will be supported by Aspire Employment Specialists, tasked with teaching them transferable work skills such as communication, time management, organization, and teamwork. Vocational abilities and awareness will be enhanced through real world experiences and teachable moments.

Currently, Aspire of WNY is securing partnerships with area businesses to accommodate the students while they are training in the workplace.

“We are extremely grateful for this new partnership. It represents an opportunity for our kids to benefit from the great vocational skills programs that Aspire has implemented,” said Veronica Federiconi, Executive Director, Autism Services, Inc. “Our students are going to thrive in this program.”

Upon completion of this six-week summer program, the students will receive a Certificate of Completion and marketable skills that they can utilize as they transition from school age to adult life.

For more information about the program or to have your business participate in providing internships for the students, contact Paula Kerber, Coordinator of Student Services at 716-836-7235, or via email: [paula.kerber@aspirewny.org](mailto:paula.kerber@aspirewny.org)

*Aspire of WNY has been a leader in providing innovative, person-centered programs and services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities for more than 65 years. Visit [www.aspirewny.org](http://www.aspirewny.org) to learn more about our individualized assistance empowering individuals to achieve their full potential and live as independently as possible.*

*Autism Services, Inc. is Western New York’s autism specialist, creating meaningful opportunities that enrich the lives of people with autism, their families, and their communities. Visit [autism-services-inc.org](http://autism-services-inc.org) to learn more about their programs and services.*

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