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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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ASPIRE OF WNY RECEIVES FUNDING GRANT FROM FIRST NIAGARA FOUNDATION

Aspire's Community-Based Employment Program for the disabled community receives funding for technology and program expansion.

Getzville, NY— Aspire of Western New York is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$5,000 grant from First Niagara Foundation to support the expansion of a community-based employment program. The funding will be used to increase access to needed technology in their mobile classrooms.

Aspire has been a local leader in providing pre-employment services to people with developmental and other disabilities who are looking to gain the experience and skills necessary to become more employable. The Adult Development And Professional Training Services (ADAPT) allows for educational opportunities and hands-on learning in communities throughout Western New York. ADAPT participants, with the assistance of an Aspire Employment Specialist, learn employability skills in mobile classrooms that are set up at various community partner sites. While there, they are learning valuable, real-world job skills, communication skills and other abilities that will help prepare them for future employment.

“Currently, ADAPT is supporting 50 individuals with developmental or related disabilities,” explained Aspire President and CEO, Thomas Sy. “However, interest in this program is growing rapidly, and we are signing up new participants on a weekly basis. This generous support from First Niagara Foundation is critical to our ability in meeting the increased demands for these services.”

In addition to the support provided by the funding grant, Aspire of WNY is looking for additional community business partners willing to host ADAPT program participants through internships and other on-site training opportunities. All program participants are supported by an Aspire Employment Specialist, who coordinates their activities and training.

Any local business wishing to participate as a community partner should contact Toni Sullivan, Aspire Facilitator of Pre-Employment Services at (716) 836-7232 or toni.sullivan@aspirewny.org.

About Aspire of WNY

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 nearly 70 years. Visit www.aspirewny.org or call (716) 505-5830 to learn more about our personalized assistance empowering individuals to achieve their full potential and live as independently as possible.###