

Headway is a support and advocacy agency for persons with brain injury, other disabilities and seniors.

“KEEP PUSHING” – JOE RADDER’S STORY



Forty years after a life-changing accident, Joe Radder wanted to share his journey with traumatic brain injury and

encourage anyone going through similar hardship to “keep pushing.”

In July of 1978, at just 17 years old, Joe went out to celebrate his high school graduation and recent job promotion. He went to a neighborhood carnival and then set out for Mickey Rats to enjoy a game of foosball. Joe never made it in to play. He was in the parking lot getting ready, when a Z28 Camaro struck him, sending Joe 15-feet into the air and into another car, hitting his head upon impact.

Joe was first taken to Lakeshore Hospital, where they were unable to help him, and sent him by ambulance to Buffalo General Hospital. There, Joe was said to have sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), fractured his leg in four different places, needed a trache and

had a blood clot in his brain. For two and a half months, he was in a coma. On September 15, 1978, Joe woke up and was told that he would never be able to walk again.

“
Joe kept pushing himself in other areas of his life as well.
”

At this time, Joe began his journey to recovery. He started by walking with parallel bars, to using a walker, then a cane and, finally, to walking unassisted. Joe made this progression on his own by using the method of walking up and down his neighborhood 10 to 15 yards, then resting. Through it all, Joe kept pushing himself and beat the odds he was given. He continues to push himself all of these years later by staying physically active and working out every day.

This determination extends to other areas of his life as well. In 1980, he started attending a workshop. He tried a few different ones, but felt his TBI did not fit the workshops’ population. Instead of giving up and staying stagnant in his life, Joe pushed forward, and in 1982, he started at the Work Experience Center where he trained to do cleaning jobs. In 1984, Joe began and completed a college preparation program through the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC). Finally, from 1986 to 1990, Joe attended Erie Community College South Campus where he graduated with his degree. From there, Joe went on to get married and have two children.

Through Joe’s continual effort of pushing forward, he has achieved many things since sustaining his TBI. Joe would like to encourage anyone facing the adversity that may come along with a traumatic brain injury, whether newly diagnosed or years past the initial injury. The message he would like everyone to take from this is: “Anything is possible if you keep pushing yourself.”

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Headway is a donor designated agency of the United Way

501C3 Non-Profit Organization



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I remember watching the promos for the NFL championship game in 1966, highlighting that the world’s fastest man, Bob Hayes, would be playing. My older brother let me know that our own Buffalo Bills would also be playing for the AFL Championship and the first Super Bowl. From that point on, I was a football fan and only until recently have I experienced the conflict of liking football and understanding how the sport is an ongoing contributor to head injuries.

The movie *Concussion* recently brought public awareness to repetitive concussions that can occur in football that can cause Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), which is not a common outcome of most sport concussion injuries. Single event concussions are still brain injuries and need to be taken seriously. We believe this area needs more awareness and tools to deal with concussion and some of the lesser known ramifications, such as a second concussion, which can dramatically increase the severity of all symptoms effecting a person’s functioning.

In the upcoming year, Headway of WNY will be working with other agencies and clinics to present a conference addressing this most experienced brain injury and focus on prevention, identification and treatment. If you are someone who would like to contribute to this event as a volunteer or possibly a presenter, please let us know.

Ronald Fernández, RRDS, CRC, LMHC
Director

ANNUAL MEETING — AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION —

ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION



Headway of WNY, held its Annual Meeting and Educational Presentation on November 29, 2017. Members of the Advisory Council and other guests met to review Headway’s Annual Summary Report. This was led by Advisory Council co-chair Felice Bumbaco and Headway’s Director Ronald Fernandez. The meeting included group introductions, a review of past minutes, council leadership changes, a report on the Haunted Helmet Ride, an updated overview of the Waiver programs, a review of the Annual Summary Report and a review of Headway’s current Strategic Business Plan and corresponding initiatives for 2018.

The meeting was followed by an educational presentation by Dr. John Leddy of the University at Buffalo Concussion Clinic. He led an informal and informative discussion about the implications of concussions and provided new insights about treatment and rehabilitation options.

All guests were engaged in the lively discussion and question/answer session.

Dr. John Leddy



EVENT RECAP: HAUNTED HELMET RIDE & WALK

Headway of WNY, Inc. held its 8th annual fall fundraiser on Friday, October 13, 2017. This year's event, the Haunted Helmet Ride & Walk, was held at Buffalo's Delaware Park, part of the Olsmted Park System. This was a family friendly fundraising event designed to raise awareness about helmet safety and prevention of traumatic brain injury. Participants were encouraged to wear costumes in coordination with their helmets. The event featured Bandbox, LLC, a company whose slogan is, "Style Banded to Safety."

All registered guests enjoyed a group ride/walk around Ring Road, an event t-shirt and reception in Parkside Lodge. The Buffalo Police Athletic League generously provided complimentary helmets to all guests. Bandbox, LLC donated a helmet with two unique covers, which were raffled off at the event.

People Inc.'s Day Habilitation Department provided eight volunteers and staff who helped with set up and participation during the event.

Presenting sponsors were Health Force and Venture Forthe. A friendly welcome address was provided by representatives from Venture Forthe and Headway.

Headway collaborated with the City of Buffalo and Parkside Lodge to ensure all city regulations were met. The event began and ended at the historic Parkside Lodge, where a reception was held, complete with live music and refreshments.

With over 50 people in attendance, it was a great opportunity to get in the Halloween spirit. The band, "Hello Molly," played some old rock 'n roll tunes and guests enjoyed the festive atmosphere! Delicious pizza was provided by Franco's Pizza and other refreshments were provided by Wegmans.

A small basket raffle was held and guests were excited about the anticipation of the winning numbers.

We're also grateful to all other sponsors and supporters of this event, including:

Buffalo Bills, Munroe Chiropractic, P.C.,
Mark and Nancy Reed, Buffalo Fire Department

All proceeds from this event benefitted Headway of WNY, Inc.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**HEADWAY'S 19TH ANNUAL
SPRING GALA**

**Thursday, May 17, 2018
6 - 9 p.m.**

The Atrium @ Rich's, Buffalo, NY

More info to be announced soon!

**For sponsorship info or to make a
donation, contact Christine Melchiorre
at cmelchiorre@headwayofwny.org
or 716.408.3117.**

IN MEMORY



IN MEMORY: JAMES DENIO

Headway of WNY, Inc. extends sincere condolences to the family of longtime friend and supporter, James Denio. We would like to thank the friends and family members who graciously sent memorial donations in lieu of flowers to Headway of WNY, Inc. in response to the notice reprinted below from Hamp Funeral Home, Inc. in Tonawanda, NY.

James Sullivan Denio, October 7, 2017, age 81 of Tonawanda, NY. Born in Utica, NY, Mr. Denio had been a resident of Western New York for the greater part of his life, but never lost his love for home in Old Forge, NY. He was the son of the late Ellis and Doris (nee Sullivan) Denio. He was the beloved husband of Judith (nee Wade) Denio; father of David, Sarah and Kevin (Joan) Denio all of Tonawanda area; brother of Mary Ellen, Deborah, Martha and the late John Denio of Old Forge, NY; also survived by two grandchildren, Amy and Michael, and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Denio served in the United States Navy as a Gunner's Mate from 1955-1957, and then graduated from Brockport State College in 1961. He worked as an inspiring elementary educator in the Kenmore-Tonawanda School District for 31 years before retiring in 1993. He was a past president of the Ken-Ton Teachers Association and served as a representative to the New York State Teachers Union for the Ken-Ton School District for 25 years. Mr. Denio was a member and supporter of the Old Forge Historical Society, as well as a 25-year member of Headway of Western New York. He also served as the sports editor for the Brockport State College newspaper, The Stylus, and took part in the U.S.O. tour of Guys and Dolls from Brockport State College.

Reprint from Hamp Funeral Home, Inc.



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Fax: (716) 856-8034

Services Provided:

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Personal Care Aide
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Fees/Coverage:

Medicaid
Private Pay
Insurance
Third-Party Billing

DID YOU KNOW?

NO TWO BRAIN INJURIES ARE EXACTLY ALIKE AND THE EFFECT ON EACH PERSON – PHYSICALLY, COGNITIVELY, EMOTIONALLY – WILL BE DIFFERENT.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



MOVE FORWARD WITH HEADWAY

Become a Member of Headway of WNY and get involved!
We need you to help sustain our mission.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Memberships are valid for one year (12 months from start month) and may be renewed annually.

Headway of WNY's Membership Program is vital for our continued presence in the community and if you are not yet a member, we invite you to join us at one of the levels outlined on the chart below or plan to renew your existing membership when you receive your renewal notice over the course of the next year.

Your interest and support mean a great deal to us and we hope we can count on you to help us as we continue moving forward.

Memberships help sustain our Mission and Vision.

Detailed information about membership levels and corresponding benefits outlined under the How To Help tab on our website, headwayofwny.org.

Mission: To ensure that individuals in WNY with brain injuries, other disabilities and seniors have access to advocacy, resources, and support systems to enable them to live as independently as possible. We seek to educate the broader community about the causes, consequences and means of prevention of brain injury.

Vision: Headway envisions a world where survivors of brain injury and those with related disabilities find meaning, move forward and know they are not alone.

Headway's Membership Program is necessary to sustain supports in the community, including the following:

- Support groups for survivors of brain injury
- Support groups for caregivers and families
- Semi-annual newsletters
- Educational outreach and presentations
- Advocacy and identification of supports

Please complete the form below or download a copy from our website at headwayofwny.org and return with your payment to:

Headway of WNY, Inc.
2635 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSE FORM

FIRST NAME:			LAST NAME:		
ORG NAME:					
ADDRESS:					
CITY:		STATE:		ZIP:	
PHONE:			EMAIL:		
PLEASE SELECT TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP					
NEW MEMBERSHIP					
RENEWAL					
PLEASE SELECT LEVEL AND PAYMENT AMOUNT					
LEVEL		AMT ENCLOSED		CHECK SELECTION HERE	
STUDENT OR SENIOR		\$15			
INDIVIDUAL		\$20			
FAMILY/SUPPORTING		\$45			
PROFESSIONAL		\$100			
CORPORATE		\$250			



**APARTMENT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR
PEOPLE INC.'S HIGHLAND SCHOOL APARTMENTS
IN TONAWANDA**

People Inc.'s new integrated housing project, Highland School Apartments on 105 Highland Avenue in Tonawanda, is accepting apartment applications for its wait list. The project brings together a diverse group of people who are eligible; as tenants can be those who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability or with a traumatic brain injury and the general public who meet age and income guidelines.

Highland School Apartments houses 35 one-bedroom and three two-bedroom handicap adaptable apartments that include kitchen appliances. The building includes a community room with Wi-Fi, laundry facilities, storage in each apartment and a 24-hour on call emergency service. Tenants are welcome to have one small pet.

The adaptive reuse project includes substantial rehabilitation of the two-story former Highland School, into an integrated, vibrant residential community. To learn how to apply for the wait list, go to people-inc.org/highland, email housing@people-inc.org or call 716.880.3890.



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FOR THE SUPPORT &
ADVOCACY YOU PROVIDE.**

**JOHN FEROLETO
CARRIE A. ZIMBARDI
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Suite 104
West Seneca, NY 14224

(716) 668-3710

awinship@winshipassociates.com

mwinship@winshipassociates.com

SENIOR WISHES IS LOOKING FOR WISHES TO FULFILL



Are you ever too old to make a wish? Senior Wishes doesn't think so. Senior Wishes grants life-enriching wishes to seniors that fulfill a lifelong dream, reconnect someone with a loved one, engage them in a passion from long ago or just provide them with something they are in need of.

Senior Wishes' first wish was granted in March 2014, and since then the organization has been recognizing Western New York's seniors in increasing numbers with the support of community members and corporate sponsors. In the past three years, Senior Wishes has granted more than 100 wishes for qualifying seniors, such as: traveling to reunite with family and friends, taking part in a sporting or cultural event and re-visiting a hobby. The program has arranged for a veteran to throw out the first pitch at a Bison's baseball game, a Cheektowaga senior to meet JoAnn Falletta at a Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra performance and also for three veterans to have a special VIP day at a Buffalo Sabres game.

To qualify, please note that the following requirements must be met before a wish will be considered:

1. Must be a resident of Western New York
2. Must be 65 years of age or older
3. Must be a U.S. citizen
4. Annual income must be less than \$38,000 for a household of one or \$44,000 for a household of two OR a permanent resident of a care facility
5. Must be cognitively, emotionally and physically capable of communicating and experiencing the wish.
(You do NOT need a medical diagnosis to apply for a wish)
6. Unable to fulfill the wish on your own

The following requests will not be considered:

1. Vacations
2. Household furniture
3. Housing reconstruction, repair and maintenance
4. Bill payments or requests for cash
5. Medical items – including surgery, prescriptions, hearing aids, dentures
6. Physical assets such as houses, vehicles, etc.
7. Legal or employment services
8. Local transportation requests

Senior Wishes was created by the United Church Home Society with a mission to foster respect and appreciation for seniors through wish fulfillment. Applications are reviewed by a Wish Granting Committee to assure it meets guidelines. Applications and guidelines are available at seniorwishes.org or by calling 716.508.2121. Information and wish recaps are also shared on the Senior Wishes Facebook page at facebook.com/SeniorWishes.



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DID YOU KNOW?

WHEN WORKING WITH A SURVIVOR OF BRAIN INJURY, IT SOMETIMES HELPS TO MAINTAIN A CONSISTENT DAILY ROUTINE. FREQUENT CHANGES MAKE MEMORY AND COPING MORE DIFFICULT.



2635 Delaware Ave., Suite E
Buffalo, NY 14216

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE, MOVE FORWARD WITH HEADWAY.

HEADWAY'S SUPPORT GROUPS FOR SURVIVORS OF BRAIN INJURY AND THEIR FAMILIES

All meetings, except as noted, will take place at Headway of WNY
2635 Delaware Avenue, Suite E, Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716.408.3100
(Please take note of changes to dates and times of support groups)

PEER SUPPORT

Enter at Suite E
First and third Tuesday of each month
6:30 to 8 p.m.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

Enter at Suite E
First Tuesday of each month
6:30 to 8 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

If the Buffalo Schools are closed due to inclement weather, support meetings listed here are also cancelled.

PEER SUPPORT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

DeGraff Hospital/Admin Board Meeting Room
445 Tremont Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120
Second Tuesday of each month
4:30 to 6 p.m.

*If you have questions,
call 716.694.4500
or 716.523.9623*

Do you wish to continue to receive this newsletter? If not, please contact our office at 716.408.3100 to be removed from the subscription list.

HEADWAYOFWNY.ORG