



A Message from the CEO

It has been a busy season for us at People Inc., with several major milestones to celebrate. We proudly opened Mt. Olive Senior Manor affordable apartments as well as our new ArtsWork gallery in the Tri-Main Center, both powerful reflections of our mission in action. Our recent fundraising events, Drive Fore People Golf Tournament and A Night of Celebration, brought our community together and raised vital support. We also had the privilege of welcoming Willow Baer, OPWDD Commissioner, who toured several of our facilities, as well as Buffalo Bills Defensive Tackle, DeWayne Carter, who visited excited football fans at our Orchard Park Day Habilitation Program. Go Bills!

As our agency continues to grow and evolve, staying connected with our families has never been more important. In a time when so much is happening, we hope this publication serves as a point of connection and clarity. In this latest edition of The Bulletin, you'll find updates on key initiatives and resources for you and your families. Whether it's ensuring safety, supporting independent living, or helping families navigate services like respite or equipment access, we remain grounded in our mission of enriching lives and communities.

Happy Reading,



Anne McCaffrey, President & CEO

Support Starts with the Right Equipment

People Inc.'s Rehabilitative Services help people access the tools they need to live with greater independence, safety, and dignity. The Adaptive Equipment & Wheelchair Clinic specializes in evaluations for a wide range of adaptive and mobility equipment, from custom-fit wheelchairs to bath chairs, gait trainers, and more.

The clinic is open to people of all ages and abilities. Each appointment begins with a thorough evaluation to understand the person's needs, daily environment, and goals. Equipment is assessed for fit, comfort, and functionality, with advanced

options like custom-molded seating and pressure mapping available.

Navigating funding can be a major challenge. That's why the clinic also helps families identify and apply for coverage through insurance, appeals, or foundations. Once equipment is approved, it is ordered and delivered by a trusted local supplier.

Whether it's a wheelchair or a new mobility device, the clinic provides personalized care every step of the way. Call People Inc.'s Rehabilitative Services department at 716.566.5050 to get started!



[Read More](#)

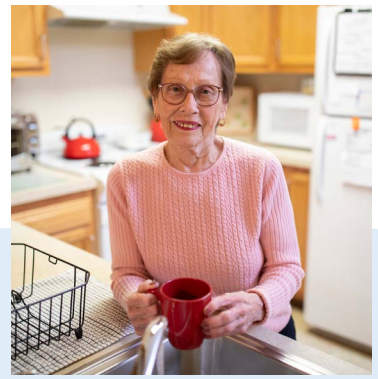


Liam Quattrini can play his favorite sport thanks to a wheelchair provided with help from People Inc.

SIGN UP FOR PEOPLE INC. NEWS!

We'll keep you updated on the latest information, announcements and events happening at People Inc.





Update on Federal Funding

At the core of all we do at People Inc. is ensuring the people we serve have the necessary resources and supports to thrive independently and lead fulfilling lives. We are in frequent communication with elected officials to remind them the vital role of government funding in ensuring quality services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), seniors and other vulnerable populations we serve.

We were pleased to see that the federal “Big Beautiful Bill” did not include any changes to the funding that we receive to support people with I/DD. Our funding and regulatory body, the NYS

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, relies on federal Medicaid funding and there were no direct changes to the NYS I/DD services system.

People Inc. is an area leader in advocacy for people with I/DD, with both a government affairs staff and an advocacy department. Based on continuous communication with consultants in our field, as well as regional state and federal elected officials, we do not foresee an immediate impact on our Medicaid-funded services. We are, as always, staying in communication with our partners and paying close attention

to federal funding actions and what they could mean for decisions made in New York State.

Most importantly, People Inc. remains steadfast in a commitment to our mission and our advocacy on your behalf. We will continue to collaborate closely with influential parties regarding funding and services for individuals with I/DD, seniors, and all others we support to protect the funding priorities that matter to our community.

We will continue to keep you informed as we monitor legislation and interface with elected officials.

Thinking About Independent Living? Planning Ahead is Key

For people with disabilities planning to live on their own, preparation is key. People Inc.’s housing subsidy program is available to help eligible individuals live independently, but timing matters.



What the Program Offers:

- Rent subsidy, paid directly to the landlord
- Financial and legal responsibility remains with the tenant. The tenant signs the lease, pays utilities, and manages other housing costs
- A one-time transitions stipend (for qualifying first-time movers) to purchase essentials (must be approved for subsidy assistance)

What You’ll Need to Apply:

- A signed 12-month lease
- Income documentation (e.g., Social Security award letter, recent pay stubs)
- If already living independently, three months of recent utility bills
- Inspection by People Inc. to ensure it meets OPWDD requirements and standards
- A life plan coordinated with your service provider

Timing Is Everything:

- Once approved, you’ll have 90 days to secure housing and submit documentation
- Applications take time. Reach out early to avoid delays or missed opportunities
- Planning ahead can make the process smoother and more successful

If you or your loved one is considering the move to independent living, **don’t wait**. Contact your care coordinator or our housing team at housingsubsidy@people-inc.org now to get started.

Safety, Quality, Accountability at People Inc.

People Inc. is continuously working to improve the essential services we provide to about 10,000 people in Western New York and Rochester.

With a commitment to progress and excellence, President and CEO Anne McCaffrey this spring rolled out for all staff a “Safety, Excellence and Accountability” initiative. The agencywide effort includes new and expanded trainings for leadership, enhanced employee development efforts, the continuous review and updating of staff training, and much more.

Other recent quality initiatives include:

- **Board Oversight:** The creation of a Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee within the People Inc. Board of Directors. The committee sets quality expectations for the agency.

- **Leadership Integration:** Established a Chief Program Officer position to oversee all residential and day services.
- **Behavior Support:** Enhancements in processes surrounding behavioral plans for those identified as having complex needs, and the implementation of a plan for more intensive support for people with high behavioral needs.
- **Incident Review:** Formation of a more comprehensive Incident Review Committee that meets frequently to ensure robust oversight and accountability.

As these initiatives evolve and new measures are introduced, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the care, safety, and well-being of the people we serve and the dedicated staff who make it all possible.

Need Respite? Now is the Time to Explore Your Options

People Inc.’s Respite Services offer enriching activities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while families get a break from everyday care. As we gear into fall, now is a great time to explore your options.

In-Home Respite

In-Home Respite brings trained staff directly to your home. This option offers personalized care in a familiar environment, ideal for people who do best with one-on-one support. Whether it’s for a few hours a week or more regular visits, in-home respite gives caregivers flexibility while ensuring their loved one is cared for and engaged. (Available in Buffalo and Rochester)

Agency-Supported In-Home Respite

Agency-Supported In-Home Respite is similar to the type of respite listed above, but families and caregivers hire and manage their own staff while we handle training and payroll. You can hire a family friend or family members. (Available in Western New York)

Recreation Respite

Recreation Respite includes supervised outings into the community, such as going to the movies, museums, parks, and more. These fun experiences promote independence and social skills, giving participants a chance to explore new interests in a safe, supported way. (Available in Erie and Niagara Counties)

Afternoon Respite

Afternoon Respite takes place at various People Inc. locations in areas like Amherst, Depew, Hamburg, and Lockport. These structured programs offer activities such

as games, crafts, and social time, perfect for after school or during breaks. It’s a great way for participants to make friends and build new skills. (Available in Erie, Niagara, and Monroe Counties)

Weekend Respite

Weekend Respite is for people who need to attend on Friday and Saturday afternoons or evenings. They will spend time with friends enjoying both in-house activities and community events. (Available in Erie County)

Respite House

The Respite House (free-standing location) offers short overnight stays or full weekends away from home. The home is staffed by trained professionals and includes planned activities, meals, and 24/7 support.

Most respite programs are funded by the Medicaid Waiver, and for people enrolled in the HCBS Waiver there is no charge. Contact People Inc. today at 716.817.7400 or talk to your care coordinator to find the right fit.





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We Have a New Mission, Vision & Values!

After months of thoughtful input from key stakeholders, including People Inc. employees, families, and board members, the People Inc. Board of Directors recently approved a refreshed mission, vision, and values for the agency. This collaborative process was designed to ensure the organization's guiding principles clearly reflect its purpose and direction today, while honoring the longstanding commitment to the people we serve.



Our Mission

People Inc. provides health and human services that enrich lives and communities through innovation and supportive services.

Our Vision

We envision communities where all people have the opportunity to live their best lives.

Our Values

Excellence | Inclusion | Integrity
Compassion | Respect
Flexibility | Accountability