

# NACS News

*A Tradition  
of Caring*

June 2022  
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Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.

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## June is Gun Violence Awareness Month

*submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor*

June in New York State is Gun Violence Awareness Month (GVAM), with other states across the nation taking part in Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 4th. This is a time when we as a community publicly re-commit to ending the scourge of violence overtaking our streets. When we treat gun violence as an epidemic - comparable to COVID or another crisis - we can address the co-determinants of our communities' health to confront the problem. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death amongst children in the United States and is an issue that affects us all.

### **A Statewide Public Health Crisis**

New York - In April 2022, both the CDC and the University of Michigan's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention declared guns as the leading cause of death among youth and teens. In fact, between 2019 and 2020, our country saw a "relative increase in the rate of firearm-related deaths of all types (suicide, homicide, unintentional, and undetermined) among children and adolescents was 29.5%."

more than twice as high as the relative increase in the general population."

Since January 2021, gun violence is up 48% in New York City, 22% in Albany, 88% in Buffalo, and 95% in Rochester.

In the summer of 2021, the Governor issued a first-in-the-nation Executive Order declaring gun violence a Disaster Emergency in the state of New York, directing debate and resources to our newest public health crisis that has plagued our streets, ripped families apart, and divided our local and state leaders. Learn more about what our cities across New York are doing in response and how you can join the effort to #endgunviolence.

### **Firearms Are The Leading Cause of Death For American Children & Teens**

And while the pandemic slowed a lot of things down, it didn't slow down gun-related deaths and injuries in the United States. According to the CDC, over 45,000 people died from gun-related injuries just last year alone, including

murders and suicides.

It is reported that 843 people die by guns in New York every year, and over 22,554 New Yorkers are impacted by gun violence annually. Though New York is rated the 48th highest in gun deaths in the country, there are signs that tell us that rate could increase if we do not remain vigilant in policy making and education.

### **Get The Stats**

A stark percentage of gun related deaths are by suicide, with 54% of all gun deaths reportedly coming from suicides. According to the NYC Health Department, 541 suicides occurred in 2019 alone and with the COVID-19 pandemic and its related stressors - feelings of isolation, job loss, financial stress, and housing issues - suicide rates are expected to increase, especially in the 45-64 year old age bracket.

With the growing reality of more unknowns as we come out of a pandemic and people begin to relearn how to navigate a "new world" with new challenges, this campaign will be dedicated to exploring every

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## **NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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## **MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

If you are planning on moving or changing your address, please contact NACS so we may update our mailing list. Send an email to Newsletter Editor:

[gghosen@nacswny.org](mailto:gghosen@nacswny.org)

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opportunity to bring awareness and education on the issues and providing information, data, and educational opportunities for New Yorkers across the state.

## **2022**

### **New York State Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP)**

Following an uptick in gun violence throughout New York State, Governor Hochul appointed Calliana S. Thomas as the Director of the New York State Office of Gun Violence Prevention. The OGVP will identify and bring together key partners in the community and law enforcement to identify steps that can be taken to curb gun violence in New York State.

### **K Bain and Elected Leaders Launch Statewide Gun Violence Awareness Month**

The month-long effort to bring awareness to the severe impact of gun violence across New York will bolster wide-ranging discussions on possible solutions. The campaign will achieve three objectives: raise awareness, provide open discussion around possible solutions, and identify resources to confront gun violence in New York. Since memorializing June as Gun Violence Awareness Month, New York has been a leader in illegal gun apprehension and prevention across the country.

### **Mayor Evans Speaks with Mayors Statewide About Gun Violence**

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (WHEC) - Mayor Malik Evans spoke about his solidarity with Buffalo in wake of the mass shooting during a meeting with mayors across New York State on Tuesday (5/31/22).

The mayors met to address gun violence and mark the start of Gun Violence Awareness Month. Buffalo's

Mayor Byron Brown hosted the meeting via Zoom. Other participants included New York City Mayor Eric Adams and the mayors of Albany, Mount Vernon, and Niagara Falls.

Evans said he was horrified by the Buffalo mass shooting and by the violence happening within Rochester. "The victims of that horrific incident on May 14th represent a cross-section of America," Evans said. "A retired police officer, a substitute teacher, a beloved grandmother, a dedicated community activist. All these folks are representative of the gun violence we're seeing in our communities and I know that I'm tired of it and I know our fellow mayors are also tired of it."

Continuing with Gun Violence Awareness Month, on June 3, Evans will issue a proclamation and news conference on gun violence at City Hall. He will join Monroe County Executive Adam Bello and representatives from Moms Demand Action and the ROC Against Gun Violence Coalition at city hall.

The last time Evans spoke about gun violence was on May 23, following an arrest related to the murder of Bryson Simpson, who was shot after he walked off the school bus. Evans said that programs for job opportunities, gun violence prevention groups, and community support are key to preventing "nonsense homicides."

### **Gun Violence Awareness Month**

is a statewide campaign in June to recognize the impact of gun violence on communities while promoting conversation and action.

#### **Resources:**

[www.gunviolenceawarenessmonthny.com/](http://www.gunviolenceawarenessmonthny.com/)

[www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/june-is-gun-violence-awareness-month/6486659/](http://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/june-is-gun-violence-awareness-month/6486659/)

## GIVE 716



NACS is excited to announce that we will be participating in the Give 716 fundraising event for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row!

### **WHAT IS 716?**

Give 716 was conceived by the Buffalo Bills Foundation and the Buffalo Sabres Foundation in order to address urgent needs of the nonprofit community as a whole. The Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres organizations are dedicating a tremendous amount of resources in an effort to help as many nonprofits as possible.

Give 716 is a community's day of online giving. The 28-hour period provides an easy and fun way for our entire community to unite in support of local nonprofits.

The goal of Give 716 is simple, to unite Bills and Sabres fans with the Western New York community in an epic day of giving! It also aims to bring awareness and develop deeper, more meaningful connections between nonprofits providing the vital supporting services to our community.

**WHERE:** On-line (NACS QR Code & link will be provided soon!)

**WHEN:** July 14, 2022, starting at 7:16pm ends Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 7:16am

### **HOW IT WORKS?**

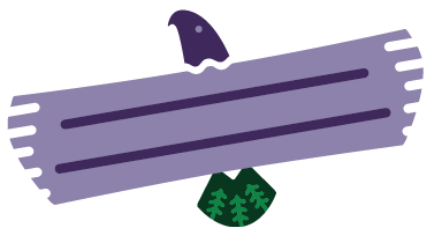
During the 28-hour period you will be able to donate to our organization, you will be recognized on our NACS page through the website. With your donation you will be providing NACS an opportunity to receive match funds, grants, and to promote the great work we do here at NACS.

We will post on our social media outlets, newsletter, and emails NACS QR code to donate and a link so that you can donate to our organization.

Any donation is greatly appreciated, Give 716 is providing a free t-shirt to the first 3000 donors!

You can visit [www.give716.org](http://www.give716.org) for more information about the event, and if you use the search (by Charity name) type in Native American Community Services you will see our page! We hope you consider donating.





## INDIGENOUS & RURAL PATIENT NAVIGATION

### HOW TO JOIN

- 1** Call 1-888-RPGUIDE
- 2** A team member will fill out a Cancer Screening and Prevention assessment with you to see what cancer screenings are recommended for you and will discuss your concerns.
- 3** Connect you to the available resources that meet your needs.  
  
Whenever possible we can connect you with a navigator that works in or near your community.
- 4** A patient navigator will follow up with you to make sure your needs are being met.



## COMMUNITY PATIENT NAVIGATION SERVICE

Indigenous & Rural Patient Navigation is a free, non-clinical, service for Indigenous and Rural community members looking for recommended cancer screening and education, additional support and resources for cancer care.

### PATIENT NAVIGATOR LOCATIONS

— VIRTUAL —

**1-888-RPGUIDE**  
(1-888-774-8433)

— COMMUNITY —

**Serving Seneca Nation  
Communities**

**Lockport Service Unit**

— FEDERALLY QUALIFIED —  
HEALTH CENTERS

**Community Health Center  
of Niagara**

*Buffalo, Cheektowaga, Niagara Falls,  
& Lockport, NY*

**The Chautauqua Center**  
*Dunkirk & Jamestown, NY*

**Universal Primary Care**  
*Olean, Cuba, Houghton & Salamanca, NY*







## **Ride for Roswell – Team Skoden, Indigenous Teams, and Native Riders**

It is that time of year again! Teams and individuals are raising funds for the Ride for Roswell.

This year members of the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research and the new Center for Indigenous Cancer Services have joined efforts by creating, Team Skoden! Our team is comprised of Indigenous employees at Roswell Park along with friends and family members. We will be riding the 10-mile route on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000!

Donations made to Team Skoden will go directly to the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research and the Center for Indigenous Cancer Services at Roswell Park.

Making a donation is easy. Just follow or click the link below to safely and easily donate online.

Check the link here:

[https://give.roswellpark.org/site/TR/SpecialEvents/General?fr\\_id=1750&pg=team&team\\_id=8591](https://give.roswellpark.org/site/TR/SpecialEvents/General?fr_id=1750&pg=team&team_id=8591)

Checks can also be made out to “The Ride for Roswell” with “Team Skoden” in the memo line and collected by a “Team Skoden” member.

If you are a member on another team or organized a team, there is an option to designate your team’s support to the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research and Services Fund at Roswell Park. By doing so, the support helps fund internship opportunities, outreach, research, and cancer care services—among, with, and for Indigenous communities.

Please email [whitneyann.henry@roswellpark.org](mailto:whitneyann.henry@roswellpark.org) who will reply with a Fund Designation Application.

You are an important member of our team in the fight against cancer and we hope that you’ll consider supporting us and other Indigenous teams throughout our Territories, Native urban landscapes, and across NY.

Together, we can make a difference!

Nya:weh!



**CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS  
CANCER SERVICES**



**CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS  
CANCER RESEARCH**

# June is Children's Awareness Month

*submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor*

Childhood is a critical time for all, often setting the course for an individual's overall social, emotional and physical health as well as economic circumstances. Young children in particular (3-5 years of age) who receive high quality early education care see tremendous dividends later in childhood and for the rest of their lives, including: higher performance once they begin school, increased likelihood of attending college, higher lifetime earnings, and reduced likelihood of being involved in the justice system.

## The Perfect Time to Talk About Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse is any act that results in serious harm or risk of harm to children, including physical violence, exploitation, and death. Failure to take action to stop this is also considered child abuse.

Child neglect is when a child isn't provided basic needs like food, clean clothing, and medical care. A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds, and 91% of child abuse is committed by parents.

4 to 5 children die from abuse or neglect every day in the U.S., and 75% of these children are under the age of 3 years old.

Children often can't speak up to protect themselves from abuse. Some physical signs of abuse include visible and severe injuries, like bruises, sprains, and burns that aren't

easily explained.

Children who avoid or fear situations or a certain person in their life and who have extreme behavior, nightmares, and difficulty expressing their thoughts and feelings may be experiencing abuse.

If you know kids with low self-esteem, who have strong shame or guilt, or who have slowed development mentally, physically, or emotionally, they may be experiencing child abuse.

## Child abuse prevention is important every step of the way in the growth of children... and parents... and other caring adults.

The National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) recognizes that to protect children from abuse, prevention services must address individuals, families and the community. These programs offer a range of services to parents, children, schools and a variety of individuals and organizations throughout our community. We all want to have a safe, healthy, and happy community.

We CAN protect our children, stop abuse, and build a strong and prosperous future for our community. It's possible and it's happening.

When children are little and parents are responsible for their every need, it is overwhelming. When children are school age and parents aren't al-

ways there to supervise, children are vulnerable.

When children become teenagers and don't think before they act, there are unforeseen consequences.

For more information, go to:  
<https://www.nationalcac.org/>

## Do You Suspect Abuse or Maltreatment? Report it Now!

Call our Statewide Toll-Free Telephone Number:  
**1-800-342-3720**

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call TDD/TTY at  
**1-800-638-5163**

**OR** have your Video Relay System provider call  
**1-800-342-3720**

If you believe that a child is in **immediate danger**, call **911 or your local police department**.

## Resources:

[www.eccac.org/monthly-focus/2021/6/23/june-is-national-childrens-awareness-month](http://www.eccac.org/monthly-focus/2021/6/23/june-is-national-childrens-awareness-month)

[www.ocfs.ny.gov/programs/cps/](http://www.ocfs.ny.gov/programs/cps/)





## NEWS RELEASE

For Release: May 10, 2022

Contact: Dave Wedekindt, VP of Concerts & Marketing, Artpark

716-472-6030

[dwedekindt@artpark.net](mailto:dwedekindt@artpark.net)

[ControlClick here for press images](#)

**ARTPARK presents**

**3rd ANNUAL STRAWBERRY MOON FESTIVAL**

***featuring BLUE RODEO, PAMYUA, a Tribute to JOANNE SHENANDOAH, SMOKE  
DANCE COMPETITION, INDIGENOUS ARTISTS & more***

**June 18 in the Artpark Lower Park & Amphitheater**

(Lewiston, NY) -- [Artpark's Strawberry Moon Festival](#) will return on **Saturday, June 18, 2022**. Admission to the afternoon activities (12PM-5PM) in Artpark's lower park is free. Tickets for the evening concert beginning at 6:30PM in the Artpark Amphitheater are \$20 and are on sale now at the Artpark Box Office (Mon-Sat, 10-4) and [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

The **Strawberry Moon Festival** celebrates the indigenous cultures of the Western New York region through storytelling, music, dance, and arts & crafts. Guests will participate in an inclusive and engaging Native American community gathering. They will also be entertained by an eclectic lineup of artists performing on multiple stages.

The first **Strawberry Moon Festival** in 2019 brought back Native American programming to Artpark after a 40-plus-year hiatus. More than 3,000 guests participated in and experienced indigenous traditions in song, dance, crafts, and more, forging cross-cultural connections and cross-community relationships that continue to this day. In its 2019 review, *The Buffalo News* said "not just a music festival, The Strawberry Moon Festival celebrates the fact the sky does not acknowledge borders, as different cultural factions from Western New York and Canada gathered to honor the beginning of a new season and tip their collective cap to the land that sustains us all."

In 2020 the festival took a COVID-19 pause, but the Native American Peace Garden came to fruition at Artpark. More than just a place to reflect and take in the beautiful

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setting along the Niagara River, the Garden is an outdoor classroom led by Native Elders and knowledge keepers. Then in 2021, the Festival themed “Rekindling our Roots” returned with performances by Martha Redbone, Lakota John, Charly Lowry and Tonemah plus a Smoke Dance Competition.

In its 3rd year, **Artpark’s Strawberry Moon Festival 2022** celebrates the many contributions Native people made in the shaping of our area and the global stage. Built on the Two Row Wampum teachings that promote all Nations walk together in parallel, with respect, compassion, and understanding to cultivate an inclusive community for our shared future, this year’s Festival will be filled with interactive workshops, activities, teachings and a large Native vendor section and food trucks.

Kicking off the festival at Noon will be a wide variety of free interactive programs located in Artpark’s lower park (South 4th St. entrance), including the Emerald Grove Stage and Artpark’s Native American Peace Garden. These programs celebrate diverse and expressive Native American cultures through the arts, food sampling, storytelling, workshops, music presentations, a Native American Discovery Zone, wampum belt workshops and display, a workshop on native dance and drum teachings by Jordan Smith. The ever popular and mesmerizing Smoke Dance competition has expanded this year with youth 13-17 division and adults divisions. Visitors can also discover unique gifts from over 20 Native American artisans and food vendors. Admission to the afternoon activities is free.

Then at 6:30PM, Artpark’s Amphitheater comes alive with a special concert headlined by Canada’s **Blue Rodeo**, plus Alaska’s **Pamyua**, and a tribute to the acclaimed Native American musician **Joanne Shenandoah**. Tickets for the Amphitheater concert are \$20.

Formed in 1995, **Pamyua** showcases Inuit culture through music and dance performance. Often described as “Inuit Soul Music,” Pamyua has discovered their own genre. They have been acclaimed as one of the 10 greatest Alaska artists of the millennium by *Alaska Magazine* and “the most famous Inuit band in the world” by *Rolling Stone*. [Learn more](#)

The concert continues with a tribute to the most critically acclaimed and honored Native American musician of her generation, **Joanne Shenandoah**. Join us as we pay homage and honor her for the legacies she has left and the paths she has opened for the next generation. Joanne’s daughter Leah Shenandoah will be joined by Theresa Bear Fox, Perry Ground, and Tonemah in The Circle: Honoring Icon Joanne Shenandoah. [Learn more about Joanne Shenandoah](#)

The evening concludes with **Blue Rodeo**. In the 35 years since forming, Blue Rodeo

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has sold over 4 million albums, received dozens of JUNO Award nominations and wins, played over 2,000 shows, been inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame, been named to the Order of Canada and have been honored with the Governor General's Performing Arts Award. And they're still as strong as ever with the release of their 16th album, "Many A Mile." [Learn more](#)

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Artpark has made a commitment to Indigenous Arts programming and awareness with a full season of Indigenous programs built for and by our local Indigenous community. Our programming, conceived and curated by Michele-Elise Burnett (Métis/Algonquin, Bear Clan and Artpark Indigenous Arts Producer) serves residents from the Indigenous community in Lewiston, Youngstown, and beyond as well as non-Native persons who are interested in learning more about the culture and traditions. [Click here for a list of programs planned for 2022.](#)

*The 2022 Artpark Season is supported by: M&T Bank; Cullen Foundation; Labatt Blue Light; Bud Light; Southern Tier Brewing; Try-it Distributing; National Endowment for the Arts; Parks & Trails New York; Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; New York State Council on the Arts; FACE Foundation; Mid Atlantic Arts; and Northtown Automotive Companies.*

Please visit [artpark.net](http://artpark.net) for a current calendar of events.

###

*The Earl W. Brydges Artpark is being operated by Artpark & Company, Inc. for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation under a long-term collaborative agreement.*

**"Not just a music festival, Strawberry Moon celebrates the fact the sky does not acknowledge borders, as different cultural factions from Western New York and Canada gathered to honor the beginning of a new season and tip their collective cap to the land that sustains us all."**

The Buffalo News (from review of the 2019 festival)



# Black Lives Matter Month – June 2022

*submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor*

Every June 1 marks the start of Black Lives Matter Month, an opportunity for all Americans to make a stand against racism and racially-motivated violence. Founded as a hashtag in 2013, Black Lives Matter has grown into thousands of decentralized chapters advocating for equality and justice for the Black community and protesting against violence against black people at the hands of law enforcement.

Arguably one of the largest protest movements in the country today, its numbers and influence have swelled as a result of the global outcry over the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police Officers in May of 2020, which has, in turn, led to serious questions being raised such as whether qualified immunity should be abolished and whether the police should be defunded.

## History of Black Lives Matter Month

The Black Lives Matter movement began as a social media response to an acquittal in the 2013 shooting death of African-American teen Trayvon Martin. The acquittal sparked outrage around the country leading to mass demonstrations against racially-motivated injustice and racism among law enforcement.

Initially begun as the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter and circulated by three black community organizers in Los Angeles, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Khan-Cullors, and Opal Tometi,

Black Lives Matter has grown into a global movement for racial equality, justice, anti-racism, and anti-violence against black people by law enforcement.

In August of 2014, the BLM movement organized its first large-scale protest in response to the death of Michael Brown at the hands of a Ferguson, Missouri police officer. The Black Lives Matter Freedom Ride consisted of more than 500 members participating in non-violent demonstrations.

Since that initial August 2014 protest, the decentralized and largely non-violent civil rights movement has been a central figure in the public responses to the unlawful killing of black people by law enforcement. Among the most notable are the 2014 killings of Akai Gurley and Eric Garner by members of the New York Police Department and now the May 2020 killing of George Floyd by four Minneapolis Police Officers.

In May 2020, the killings of Breonna Taylor by Louisville police while she slept in her bed and Ahmaud Arbery while peacefully jogging through a Georgia neighborhood brought attention to violence against black people. But it was the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis Police Officer that captured the nation's attention. One officer kneeled on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes. The act, which was

filmed and released globally, sparked hundreds of demonstrations around the globe. Nearly every major U.S. city and even some smaller towns have had demonstrations organized and influenced by the Black Lives Matter movement. All four officers have been charged.

## How to Observe Black Lives Matter Month

### 1. Support the movement through action and aid

The most obvious way to get involved is to join a non-violent protest, but there are other ways to help the movement. Support scholarships aimed at African-American students or donate to advocacy groups that support positive change such as the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Equal Justice Initiative. Whatever you do, do it loud and proud to show support and help others do the same.

### 2. Make your voice heard on election day

Every year in America we have a chance to force change at the ballot box through local, statewide, and national elections. Take that chance and vote. The Black Lives Matter movement is at its most effective when it is calling for positive action. Voting is your Constitutional right to act on the change you believe in.

### 3. Have a difficult conversation

Start a conversation with  
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the people in your life about racism, injustice, violence, and the other ways people are marginalized, no matter how awkward or charged it gets. Do it for those who tragically no longer have a voice of their own.

## Why Black Lives Matter Month is Important

### A. It rallies people toward action against racism and racial injustice

The Black Lives Matter movement has become synonymous with the struggle against racial inequality, particularly that which is

present within our social systems. BLM has helped shine a light on racism and united reformers from many walks of life.

### B. It forces people to empathize with others

We all have different life experiences, and many of those experiences are dictated by how others see us. Depending on where you live or how you look, your life experience could differ drastically even from your next-door-neighbor. During this month, get out of your comfort zone and sincerely consider what it

is like to walk in someone else's shoes.

### C. It is a visible force for equality

Despite attempts by some to distort or hijack its message, the Black Lives Matter movement believes in ending racism and violence used against ALL black lives. It strives to build a broad coalition to finally end racial injustice.

Resources:

<https://nationaltoday.com/black-lives-matter-month/>

## Black Lives Matter Month timeline

2013

### Hashtag founded

The Black Lives Matter movement began with the eponymous hashtag as a result of the acquittal in the shooting death of unarmed black teenager, Trayvon Martin.

August 2014

### BLM Freedom Ride

Black Lives Matter members organized their first national protest after the shooting death of Michael Brown by Ferguson, Missouri law enforcement.

June 2015

### March For Peace

Black Lives Matter takes part in a march for peace across the Ravenel Bridge in South Carolina as part of demonstrations against the mass shooting of nine people at an historically black church in Charleston by a white supremacist.



Spring 2020

### Black Lives Lost

The spring of 2020 brought the deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and more at the hand of police. This sparked international protests and calls for police reform.

June 2020

### International Protests Grow

Within days, countries around the world reacted to the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor with protests in support for anti-racism in cities like, Tokyo, Brussels, London, Mexico City, Paris, São Paulo, Johannesburg, and many more.



## The BELL Project: June Announcements

### Sensory Stay n' Play

Date: Saturday, June 18th, 2022

Time: 10:00-11:00 am

Location: 1 Lafayette Square (Central Library)

Join the Central Library for an hour of sensory box playtime! Pick up a sensory kit for your 3-5 year old from 10am-11am in the Kids Space. This stay n' play is socially distanced and then you're able to take the kit home with you!

### FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

**\*\*Weather permitting event will be held outdoors on the Washington street ramp\*\***

Here are some Daily fun activities you can incorporate into your day

## Daily Fun with Your Little One!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>5 Writing</b></p> <p>It's Great Outdoors Month. Bring art supplies to a park so your child can draw a landscape portrait of what he sees.</p>	<p><b>6 Math</b></p> <p>It's Drive-In Movie Day. Take your child to a drive-in movie and walk around to count the number of cars she sees in the parking lot.</p>	<p><b>7 Rhymes</b></p> <p>It's Candy Month. Work together to make a list of words that rhyme with "sweet," "tarts," "jolly," and "rancher."</p>	<p><b>1 Play</b></p> <p>It's Go Barefoot Day. Kick off your shoes and socks and play tag with your child in the grass.</p>	<p><b>2 Reading</b></p> <p>It's First Ladies Day. Read <i>Courageous First Ladies Who Changed the World</i> by Heidi Poelman and find out who your child's favorite first lady is and why.</p>	<p><b>3 Songs</b></p> <p>It's DJ Month. Set your child up with a speaker to DJ all the music you listen to for an hour.</p>	<p><b>4 Sounds</b></p> <p>It's Hug Your Cat Day. What sound would a cat make when being hugged by everyone she loves? Find out what your child believes.</p>
<p><b>12 Songs</b></p> <p>Help your child write an original song about love and put on a performance for the whole family.</p>	<p><b>13 Math</b></p> <p>It's Safety Month. Ask your child to count the number of stop signs during your next drive.</p>	<p><b>14 Science</b></p> <p>It's Call Your Doctor Day. Pretend your child is a doctor and make fake calls to her asking silly health questions.</p>	<p><b>15 Play</b></p> <p>Put on a sock puppet show! Let your child hide behind the couch to create a stage.</p>	<p><b>16 Math</b></p> <p>It's Give a Bunch of Balloons Month. Buy a bunch of balloons and ask your child to count how many you bought. Help her give them away.</p>	<p><b>17 Songs</b></p> <p>It's Eat Your Vegetables Day. Watch the "Eat Your Vegetables Song" by Little Baby Bum and find out what your child's biggest reason is for eating vegetables.</p>	<p><b>18 Stories</b></p> <p>It's Go Fishing Day. Act out an original story with your child about catching a fish that talks. What would the fish say?</p>
<p><b>19 Reading</b></p> <p>It's Juneteenth. Read <i>Juneteenth: A Children's Story</i> by Opal Lee and find out what your child learned from the story.</p>	<p><b>20 Rhymes</b></p> <p>Walk around the neighborhood with your child and take turns pointing out objects that the other person needs to rhyme.</p>	<p><b>21 Sounds</b></p> <p>It's Zoo and Aquarium Month. Head to the local zoo or aquarium with your child and mimic the sounds of water or animals.</p>	<p><b>22 Writing</b></p> <p>Ask your child to write his name as big as he can on a sheet of paper, then as small as he can.</p>	<p><b>23 Play</b></p> <p>It's Hydration Day. Have a water fight outside with your child and make sure to drink plenty of water during breaks.</p>	<p><b>24 Math</b></p> <p>Work with your child to discover how many building blocks it takes to get to the same height as a table, chair, or other object.</p>	<p><b>25 Reading</b></p> <p>Take your child to the pool and sound out the names of different brands of sunscreen, towels, or sunglasses.</p>
<p><b>26 Sounds</b></p> <p>It's Barcode Day. On your next trip to the grocery store, listen carefully to the different tones of each barcode scanner with your child.</p>	<p><b>27 Science</b></p> <p>It's Sunglasses Day. Go shopping for a pair of sunglasses with UV protection. Explain how sunglasses keep your child's eyes safe.</p>	<p><b>28 Writing</b></p> <p>Use sidewalk chalk to draw a perfect beach day with your child.</p>	<p><b>29 Stories</b></p> <p>Listen to your child tell a story about what she would do if she lived under the sea.</p>	<p><b>30 Play</b></p> <p>It's Handshake Day. Invent a secret handshake with your child.</p>		

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June 2022

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## The BELL Project: June Announcements

Get ready & mark your calendars!

Here are some more **FREE** events coming up in the month of June you and your little ones can be a part of:

### Summer Read Aloud Series

11:00am- 12:30pm



**Saturdays at Absolute Health and Wellness**

391 Washington Street, Buffalo, NY 14203  
(corner of Ellicott and Clinton)

June 18, 2022  
July 23, 2022  
August 27, 2022



### Wednesdays at "The Shop"

**Tyson Cuts-** July 20, 2022

259 Carolina Street

**SM79 Barber Co-** July 27, 2022

1569 Hertel Avenue

**Fade in Full-** August 10, 2022

1068 Elmwood Avenue



**FREE**

## Read and Relax

**Saturday**  
June 18, 2022  
11:00am- 12:30pm

Absolute Health and Wellness  
391 Washington Street, Buffalo, NY 14203  
(corner of Ellicott and Clinton)

Join us for a read aloud and family yoga sequence led by The Krazy Yogi.



Free football to the first 50 children in attendance!

**ABSOLUTE HEALTH & WELLNESS**  
391 Washington Street, Buffalo, NY 14203  
(corner of Ellicott and Clinton)

# TACKLE READING

Join us for a read aloud with Coach Taylor and a fitness boot camp.

**SATURDAY**  
July 23, 2022 | 11am-12:30pm

**TACKLE READING EVENT**  
SAT, JUL 23 AT 11 AM ET

## WEDNESDAYS AT THE SHOP

1/4

**July 20, 2022**  
11:00am-12:30pm

Join us for a free, family friendly read aloud by **Master Barber Joe Tyson** and painting activity with **the Left-Handed Bandit**

**Tyson Cuts Barbershop**  
259 Carolina Street, Buffalo, NY 14201

All those who attend will be entered to win a copy of the book!

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



*A Tradition of Caring*

### Services we provide:

- ⇒ Case management/career counseling
- ⇒ Job search and placement assistance
- ⇒ Assistance in identifying employment barriers
- ⇒ Occupational skills training/skills upgrade
- ⇒ Interview preparation
- ⇒ Resume writing assistance
- ⇒ Educational resources and information
- ⇒ Resources for entrepreneurs
- ⇒ Referrals and Linkages to other services
- ⇒ Status card/Tribal documentation assistance

### Funding Available to Eligible Native Americans for:

- \* Work Experience Positions
- \* On-the-job Training
- \* Tuition/Books/Educational Support
- \* Work Clothes/Tools
- \* Training/Certification Programs
- \* Other Supportive Services

For more information and/or  
to make an appointment, contact:  
Native American Community Services

Tianna Porter—Buffalo  
716-574-9731

Katina Simmons—Rochester  
585-514-3984

Becky Waterman—Syracuse  
315-322-8754

We have offices in  
Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lockport,  
Rochester and Syracuse

### Counties we serve:

Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee,  
Wyoming, Monroe, Livingston,  
Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Seneca,  
Cayuga, Oswego, Onondaga,  
Cortland, Oneida, Madison

*Funded by the US Department of Labor*

# Workforce Development Services

Submitted by Colleen Casali – Economic Empowerment Services Coordinator

Native American Community Services has a workforce development program that offers employment and education services to the Native American community in 17 Counties in New York State. The following is a list of services that are available to eligible participants which includes limited financial assistance.

## **Services provided to eligible participants:**

- Case Management related to workforce activities
- Assistance in identifying barriers to employment
- Career counseling/exploration
- Job search and placement assistance
- 6-week Work Experience program
- Interviewing preparation
- Occupational skills training/Skills upgrade
- On-the-job training
- Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) classes—Formally GED
- Educational resources and information
- Tuition/Book Assistance
- Entrepreneurial/small business technical assistance training information
- Follow-up services
- Referral and linkage services
- Status Card/Tribal documentation assistance

## **The following are requirements needed to qualify as an eligible participant:**

- ❖ 18 years of age or older
- ❖ Reside off the reservation
- ❖ Reside in one of the 17 counties we serve
- ❖ Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian
- ❖ Tribal documentation of enrollment in a federal or state recognized tribe
- ❖ Unemployed or under-employed
- ❖ Laid-off, furloughed or dislocated workers
- ❖ Veteran or Spouse of a Veteran
- ❖ Meet all WIOA eligibility guidelines

If you live in one for these counties:

**Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Seneca, Cayuga, Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland, Oneida, Madison** - You may qualify for services.

To make an appointment for an initial assessment call Tianna Porter at (716) 574-9731; Katina Simmons at (585) 514-3984 or Becky Waterman at (315) 322-8754. Office hours **Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.**

If you prefer email you can reach Tianna at [tporter@nacswny.org](mailto:tporter@nacswny.org); Katina at [ksimmons@nacswny.org](mailto:ksimmons@nacswny.org) or Becky at [rwateman@nacswny.org](mailto:rwateman@nacswny.org).

Native American Community Services

# FOOD PANTRY

1005 Grant St  
Buffalo NY, 14207

Hours: 10:00AM-1:00PM  
Tuesdays & Wednesdays



**We are committed to providing nutritious food for our community, especially in times of crisis.**  
**If you or your family are eligible based on the following criteria, please visit us during our food pantry hours.**

**You are eligible for food assistance if you live in zipcodes [14207](#) or [14216](#), and if you meet one of the following criteria:**

Household Size	Annual Income
1	\$25,520
2	\$34,480
3	\$43,440
4	\$52,400
5	\$61,360
6	\$70,320
7	\$79,280
8	\$88,240
Each Additional	\$8,960

- **Your family income lies within these guidelines, including if you have recently become unemployed.**
- **You or someone in your household participates in SNAP, WIC, TANF, Unemployment, Disability, SSI, or Free/Reduced lunch program.**
- **You are experiencing food insecurity and/or having trouble making ends meet.**



Native American Community Services  
of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.  
1005 Grant Street  
Buffalo, New York, 14207

Please share this newsletter with family, friends and co-workers. If you know of anyone who would like to receive NACS News monthly by email, please have them send their first and last name and current email address to:

[gghosen@nacswny.org](mailto:gghosen@nacswny.org)

You can also look for our newsletter on our website:  
[http://www.nacswny.org/news\\_and\\_events.html](http://www.nacswny.org/news_and_events.html)

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YES, I'D LIKE TO HELP NACS CONTINUE ITS TRADITION OF CARING!!

<p>Please accept my contribution of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$5   <input type="checkbox"/> \$10   <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   <input type="checkbox"/> \$50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100   <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>I'd like to volunteer my time. I can...</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Please detach and return to:</p> <p><b>Native American Community Services of Erie &amp; Niagara Counties, Inc.</b> <b>1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York 14207</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Name</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Address</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City / State / Zip Code</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please add me to your mailing list!</p>
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FUNDED BY: Erie County Department of Social Services; Erie County Youth Bureau; New York State Office of Children & Family Services; New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services; NYS DOH/Family Health; NYS OASAS; Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Office of the Aging; US Department of Labor; Administration for Native Americans (ANA); Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation; The Cullen Foundation; The Tower Foundation, The Oishei Foundation as well as businesses, foundations and caring individuals.