



# WHAT'S NEXT?

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*Employment • Post-Secondary Edu • Social • Housing*

A resource event focused on opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental differences.

# RESOURCE BOOKLET

Project of:



# TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Zab's Place	To train young adults with special needs talents to harness their abilities and transition to rewarding careers, realizing their dreams of leading meaningful lives.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Bentzion and Rochel Groner <b>Email:</b> info@zabsplace.com <b>Website:</b> www.zabsplace.org <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 708-5600
Cakeable Charlotte	Cakeable Charlotte is a nonprofit which empowers people, businesses, and communities to achieve their fullest potential through inclusive environments.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Renee Ratcliffe or Amanda Jones <b>Email:</b> renee@cakeablecharlotte.com / amanda@cakeablecharlotte.com <b>Website:</b> www.cakeablecharlotte.com <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 591-5257
UNC TEACH T-STEP	The T-STEP Program is a FREE intervention developed to support 16-21-year-old students with Autism Spectrum Disorder transition to college and employment. We are part of TEACCH Autism Program, a University-based system of community regional centers that offers a set of core services along with unique demonstration programs meeting the clinical, training, and research needs of autistic individuals, their families, and professionals across the state of North Carolina. We typically offer a hybrid format 12-week session every spring and fall semester based out of Central Piedmont Community College.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Kaitlin Cordova <b>Email:</b> kaitlin_cordova@med.unc.edu <b>Website:</b> www.teacch.com/cllc/t-step-teacch-school-transition-to-employment-and-postsecondary-education <b>Phone #:</b> (919) 843-9505
Ryan's Place, LLC	At Ryan's Place, LLC we cultivate vitality through the empowerment of the individual to optimize the potential and independence of each member in the home and community. Using an integrated approach to whole-person care, Ryan's Place is dedicated to both, qualitative and quantitative results inspired by the engagement of trained and compassionate direct support professionals.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Priscilla Perez-Sanchez <b>Email:</b> priscilla@ryansplace.com <b>Website:</b> www.ryansplaceclt.com <b>Phone #:</b> (980) 339-5676
Gravitate Queen City	Gravitate Queen City is a nonprofit organization located in Waxhaw, North Carolina. Our mission is to create an inclusive community and empower young adults with different abilities. We specialize in vocational training while baking all-natural dog treats for our furry friends	<b>Contact Name:</b> Gayle & Peter Knibbe <b>Email:</b> info@gravitatequeencity.com <b>Website:</b> www.gravitatequeencity.com <b>Phone #:</b> (616) 648-9598
Vocational Rehabilitation	The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) helps people with disabilities achieve their goals for employment and independence. DVRS can connect you to services & resources to help you meet your goals.	<b>Email:</b> amy.hawkins@dhhs.nc.gov <b>Website:</b> www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services <b>Phone #:</b> (980) 296-6736
Project SEARCH - Adult Program with InReach	The goal is to provide young adults with developmental disabilities with onsite internship experiences that lead to competitive employment.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Robin Garcia <b>Email:</b> rgarcia@inreachnc.org <b>Website:</b> www.inreachnc.org <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 536-6661
Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC)	Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) is a private, nonprofit parent organization, committed to improving the lives and education of ALL children through a special emphasis on children with disabilities and special healthcare needs. ECAC affirms the right of all individuals, from all backgrounds and cultures, with or without disabilities, to an appropriate education and other needed services. ECAC seeks to make that right a reality by providing information, education, outreach, and support to and for families with children across the state of NC.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Beth Voll <b>Email:</b> bvoll@ecacmail.org <b>Website:</b> www.ecac-parentcenter.org/ <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 892-1321

# TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
nonPareil Institute	Building Better Futures for Adults with Autism. nP Online offers virtual training to students living outside the areas of our in-person sites. The online training program teaches technical skills in Art and Design. This virtual environment helps students apply their knowledge and creativity while learning work-readiness and being a part of the nPO Community through online social interest-based clubs.	Contact Name: Kim Yard & Melody Marshall Email: kyard@npitx.org & mmarshall@npitx.org Website: www.npusa.org Phone #: (972) 290-1354
Autism Next Steps	Our mission is to empower parents of children with autism, developmental delays, and mental health issues by providing a supportive and collaborative community with resources, knowledge, and advocacy skills to ensure the holistic well-being and success of our children.	Contact Name: Rozelle Gipson Email: rozellegipson@icloud.com Website: www.brand.site/autismnextsteps Phone #: (321) 266-9545
Autism Society of NC	Improve the lives of individuals with autism, support their families, and educate communities.	Contact Name: Shagun Gaur Email: sgaur@autismsociety-nc.org Website: www.autismsociety-nc.org Phone #: (704) 454 2500
Disability Rights & Resources	To create a fully inclusive community in which all people, with and without disabilities, may pursue their own goals and choices for living and working together.	Contact Name: Joe Gentry Email: joegentry@disability-rights.org Website: www.disability-rights.org Phone #: (704) 537-0550
Nevins Inc.	Nevins Inc provides intellectual and developmentally disabled people over the age of 16 with opportunities to achieve their fullest potential through employment and community involvement	Contact Name: Jessica Bustamante Email: jessica@nevinsinc.org Website: nevinsinc.org Phone #: (704) 292-5733

# SOCIAL/ RECREATION

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Camp Blue Skies	We provide camps with social, recreational, and educational programs for adults with developmental disabilities.	Email: contact@campblueskies.org Website: CampBlueSkies.org Phone #: (704) 266-2267
Next Step Clubhouse	To provide a facility and programs for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to meet regularly and experience a broad range of social and recreational activities designed to promote healthy living, support social relationships, explore the arts, improve functional skills, and foster community involvement.	Contact Name: Chris Link Email: chris@nextstepclubhouse.org Website: www.nextstepclubhouse.org Phone #: (980) 272-7687
GiGi's Playhouse	We change lives through the consistent delivery of free educational, therapeutic-based, and career development programs for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community, through a replicable playhouse model.	Contact Name: Christy Allen Email: callen@gigisplayhouse.org Website: www.gigisplayhouse.org/charlotte Phone #: (704) 350-5282

# SOCIAL/ RECREATION CONTINUED

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
RyzAb0ve Fitness Company	RyzAb0ve Fitness is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides group exercise classes and socialization opportunities that inspire individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as Autism and Down Syndrome, to live a healthy and more fulfilling lifestyle, while also cultivating true, meaningful friendships with their peers.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Ryan Bost <b>Email:</b> ryan@ryzab0ve.org <b>Website:</b> www.RyzAb0ve.org <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 244-6247
Special Olympics NC (Mecklenburg County)	Special Olympics provides year-round sports training & athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children & adults with I/DD, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy & participate in a sharing of gifts, skills & friendship with their families, other athletes, and community.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Jamey Petrucci <b>Email:</b> mecklenburg@sonc.net <b>Website:</b> www.sonc.net/about-us/our-story <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 317-3648
Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services	To enhance community wellness through recreation, open space and natural resources in Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Vernice Gallon Clyburn <b>Email:</b> vernice.gallonclyburn@mecknc.gov <b>Website:</b> www.parkandrec.mecknc.gov/Activities/therapeutic-recreation-activities <b>Phone #:</b> (980) 314-1308
Rae's Playze Adult Day Center	Seeing through the eyes of others.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Cindy Ghazal <b>Email:</b> cghazal@raeplayze.com <b>Website:</b> www.raeplayze.com <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 563-3334
Adult Enrichment Centers, School of the Arts	To provide opportunities for adults of all abilities to live a full purpose filled life.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Samantha Kriegshouser <b>Email:</b> samanthak@aecenters.org <b>Website:</b> www.adultenrichmentcenters.org <b>Phone #:</b> (803) 417-3376
Camp SOAR	Camp SOAR (Special Olympics Athlete Retreat) is an exciting week that encourages current Special Olympics athletes to try new sports and recruit new athletes to participate in Special Olympics.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Bob Bowler <b>Email:</b> bobbowler5@aol.com <b>Website:</b> www.sonc.net/local-programs/mecklenburg-county/camp-soar/ <b>Phone #:</b> 704-358-1935 ext. 162
Yoga Includes Me	To provide inclusive opportunities to practice adaptive and accessible yoga and mindfulness.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Sarah Henderson <b>Email:</b> Sarahhendersonyoga@gmail.com <b>Website:</b> yogaincludesme.com <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 906-8727
Lyfe + Sports Training	To serve the special needs community using fitness. We provide personalized training and support to help you achieve whatever your goals may be, whether it's losing weight, gaining muscle, or simply staying active and healthy.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Jay Dunham <b>Email:</b> jdun7712@yahoo.com <b>Website:</b> www.lyfesportstraining.com <b>Phone #:</b> (908) 202-6616
Friendship Circle	Our flagship program is called Friends Together, where we pair a Teen Friend and Special Friend to meet up at Friendship Circle on a weekly basis. Our friends engage in a variety of activities based on the Special Friend's preferences and interests. Over time, a friendship develops from the mutual respect and understanding of the new friends	<b>Address:</b> 6619 Sardis Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270 <b>Website:</b> www.friendshipcirclenc.org

# SOCIAL/ RECREATION CONTINUED

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte	Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for all people with Down syndrome by empowering individuals, families and professionals with information and support through education, social programs and community partnerships.	Contact Name: Vicki Coles Email: Victoria.coles@dsa-gc.org Website: www.dsagreatercharlotte.com Phone #: (678) 986-5237
Freedom2Hope, Inc.	We believe that ALL families and individuals deserve an excellent quality of life. We strive to promote this principle by offering families a caring and trusting community, self-care opportunities, hope and healing through counseling, support groups, community building to empower families and individuals needed for them to enjoy life, thrive & hope.	Contact Name: Lisa Divers Email: lisa.v.divers@gmail.com Website: www.freedom2hopeinc.org Phone #: (703) 473-0655
Piedmont Music Therapy	To engage, empower, and accompany individuals to reach their goals grounded in the frameworks of music therapy and social work. PMT strives to meet students and clients where they are and support them in improving their quality of life.	Contact Name: Gretchen Benner Email: director@piedmontmusictherapy.com Website: www.peidmontmusictherapy.com Phone: (803) 206-2044
Therapy & Motion	Therapy and Motion empowers, challenges and inspires children and families to thrive despite life's barriers and challenges.	Contact Name: Shanea Calhoun Email: shaneacalhoun@gmail.com Website: www.therapyandmotion.com Phone #: (198) 036-8009

# MULTI-AREA SERVICE PROVIDERS

These are organizations that offer resources in multiple types of areas (financial planning, mental health counseling, housing, social groups, parent support groups, and more!)

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
A Special Needs Plan	A nationwide special needs planning advisory firm founded to serve special needs families to help them plan for the future care and financial well-being of their loved ones.	Contact Name: Margaret Gaffney & Ryan Platt Email: margaretagaffney@financialguide.com Website: www.ASpecialNeedsPlan.com Phone #: (704) 326-7914
No Limits Counseling	Mental health counseling and relationship coaching for teens and adults with intellectual disabilities.	Contact Name: Michele Mattox, LCSW, LISW-CP Email: michele@nolimitscounseling.org Website: www.nolimitscounseling.org Phone #: 910-632-4837
Grupo Poder y Esperanza	Connecting Hispanic/ Latino families to resources in the Medical and Educational System that can help their children and youth lead healthier and more fulfilling lives within the community.	Contact Name: Jessica Aguilar Email: grupopoderyesperanza@gmail.com Website: www.mentalhealthtransformationalli.godaddysites.com/grupo-poder-y-esperanza Phone #: (704) 726-3156
Alliance Health	Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of the people we serve by ensuring highly effective, community-based support and care.	Contact Name: John Giampaolo Email: jgiampaolo@alliancehealthplan.org Website: www.alliancehealthplan.org Phone #: 704-677-9676

# MULTI-AREA SERVICE PROVIDERS CONTINUED

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
ResCare Community Living	ResCare Community Living provides an array of services for individuals who need assistance with daily living due to developmental, cognitive, or intellectual disabilities.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Terrell Wheeler <b>Email:</b> terrell.wheeler@rescare.com <b>Website:</b> www.rescarecommunityliving.com/north-carolina <b>Phone #:</b> (701) 989-3828
Autism Charlotte	Our mission is to embrace and empower children and families	<b>Email:</b> info@autismcharlotte.org <b>Website:</b> www.autismcharlotte.org <b>Phone #:</b> (704)-910-4512
Hands of Peace Home Care	Our mission is to deliver client-centered compassionate care and unwavering professionalism you can count on. We promise to guard the dignity of your loved one, as well as provide the unmatched care and support they need to live safely and comfortably in their own homes; fully committing to and upholding the vision that every loved one have the confidence and support to make each day their best day.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Jessica Robinson <b>Email:</b> contactus@handsofpeace.net <b>Website:</b> www.handsofpeace.net <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 625-6986
Special Needs Community Initiative	Our mission is to create an affordable & sustainable cohousing community for individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities so that they may live independently in a safe environment that is rich in opportunities for personal growth through our LEARN, WORK & PLAY program.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Josette Duncan <b>Email:</b> ourspecialcommunity@gmail.com <b>Website:</b> www.snci-nc.org <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 491-6503
Lifespan	Lifespan Services endeavors that every individual regardless of abilities and every Lifespan Ambassador has the resources they need to flourish and be the best version of themselves.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Jennifer Madsen <b>Email:</b> jmadsen@lifespanservices.org <b>Website:</b> www.lifespanservices.org <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 614-4893
Autistic Adult and Teen Consulting	Improve overall well-being and life participation through improved understanding and strategies to address sensory processing differences, regulation, executive functioning challenges, as well as challenges transitioning to adulthood.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Rachel Durban <b>Email:</b> rdurban@autisticadultandteen.com <b>Website:</b> autisticadultandteen.com <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 255-5244
Trusted Parents	To empower a special community of parents with support, services, awareness, and advocacy that will help enhance their lives and the lives of their loved one living with special health care needs.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Nikia Bye <b>Email:</b> nikiabye@trustedparents.org <b>Website:</b> www.trustedparents.org <b>Phone #:</b> (980) 229-7253
The Arc of North Carolina	The Arc of North Carolina is committed to securing for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work and play.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Melinda Plue <b>Email:</b> info@arcnc.org <b>Website:</b> www.arcnc.org <b>Phone #:</b> (919) 782-4632
Carolina Family Alliance	It is the Mission of Carolina Family Alliance, Inc. to develop alliances with youth, families and communities of the Carolinas through the provision of therapeutic and comprehensive services that will empower youth, solidify families, impact/strengthen the community & change lives.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Tyrome Davis <b>Email:</b> tndavis@carolinafamilyalliance.com <b>Website:</b> www.carolinafamilyalliance.com <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 323-5535



# MULTI-AREA SERVICE PROVIDERS CONTINUED

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Best Buddies International/ NC	To empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through friendship, social opportunities, leadership development and jobs.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Tammy Medlock <b>Email:</b> tammymedlock@bestbuddies.org <b>Website:</b> www.bestbuddies.org/northcarolina <b>Phone #:</b> 704-619-7780
Let's Talk About It - The Autism Center, Inc.	We advance the social, academic, and vocational development of individuals on the autism spectrum with a focus on youth ages 3 to 25.	<b>Contact Name:</b> La Becky Roe <b>Email:</b> Labeckyroe@gmail.com <b>Website:</b> letstalkaboutittheautismcenter.org <b>Phone #:</b> 704-835-3605

# POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Bridges Transition Program	Bridges is a post-secondary program for highly motivated young adults with complex learning challenges. The program serves students who desire to continue their education in areas of occupational skills and independent living within the community.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Amy Firth <b>Email:</b> afirth@philipsacademync.org <b>Website:</b> www.philipsacademync.org <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 365-4533
Winthrop Think College	Offering post-secondary opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities	<b>Contact Name:</b> Ryan Morrison <b>Email:</b> morrisonr@winthrop.edu <b>Website:</b> www.winthrop.edu/coe/thincollege <b>Phone #:</b> (803) 371-0006
Julia's Community	Julia's Community is a collaborative approach to thinking differently about the way individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live, work, and play. An inclusive community on a college campus with educational, employment, and daily living opportunities. Julia's Community works to integrate services, support, and residential accommodations for persons living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Located on the campus of Wingate University.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Michelle Lancaster <b>Email:</b> michelle@julias.community <b>Website:</b> Julias.community <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 609-5156
Western Carolina University	The <i>UP (University Participant) Program</i> is for students with ID-fully integrated experience building skills in personal development, community participation, vocational preparation, social preparation, and learning, and course auditing.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Kelly Kelley <b>Email:</b> kkelley@email.ecu.edu <b>Website:</b> www.up.wcu.edu <b>Phone #:</b> (828) 227-3298
Appalachian State University	The <i>Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP)</i> is for students with ID and DD- integrative courses related to career and personal interests and service-learning opportunities.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Dr. Susan Hedges <b>Email:</b> ksdap@appstate.edu <b>Website:</b> www.sdap.appstate.edu
University of NC-Greensboro	The <i>Beyond Academics Program</i> is for students with ID and DD- integrative community studies on self-determination, life planning, and career development.	<b>Email:</b> beyondacademics@uncg.edu <b>Website:</b> www.beyondacademics.uncg.edu
Rowan Cabarrus Community College SOAR Program	To provide skills, opportunities, awareness and readiness for students with disabilities.	<b>Contact Name:</b> Mandy Thacker <b>Email:</b> mandy.thacker@rccc.edu <b>Website:</b> www.rccc.edu <b>Phone #:</b> (704) 216-3761

# POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Compass Education-South Piedmont Community College	A free year-round academic program at South Piedmont Community College. The program's purpose is to provide students who attended OCS, TTA, or general education courses with an IEP, an opportunity to increase skills needed for employment and/or higher education.	Contact Name: Nikki Myers Email: nmyers@spcc.edu Website: www.spcc.edu
REACH Program at the College of Charleston	The REACH Program is dedicated to ensuring students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities have a quality inclusive postsecondary education that provides support in academics, social development, independent living, and career development, honors their dignity and worth and fosters self-determination.	Contact Name: Nora Krasowski Email: nelynch@cofc.edu Website: www.charleston.edu/reach/index.php Phone #: (843) 953-4849
CPCC iLead	I-LEAD (Independence and Literacy Education for Adults with Disabilities) is a Central Piedmont College and Career Readiness program that provides specialized education and transition courses for adults with a diagnosed intellectual disability, traumatic brain injury, or other special learning need.	Contact Name: Lisa Hailey Email: lisa.hailey@cpcc.edu Website: www.cpcc.edu/programs/independence-and-literacy-education-adults-disabilities-i-lead
Autism Grown Up	Our mission is to create and share resources and education to support Autistic individuals & their support networks across the lifespan.	Contact Name: Tara Regan Email: hello@autismgrownup.com Website: www.autismgrownup.com Phone #: (704) 654-6561

# MARKETPLACE BUSINESSES

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Treats with Friends	A mobile frozen treats, snacks, and beverage truck powered by the joy of Rainbow Express Ministries.	visit <a href="http://www.treatswithfriends.com">www.treatswithfriends.com</a> for booking inquiries.
Raunyz	Spread happiness -one bracelet at a time!	Contact Name: Shagun Gaur Email: happyraunyz@gmail.com Website: www.raunyz.com
Silver Wolf Studios	Philips Academy's Student Business Enterprise. They sell coffee, dog treats, bracelets, and notecards. You can purchase coffee (\$15) and dog treats (\$5) anytime.	Website: <a href="http://www.coffee.philipsacademync.org">www.coffee.philipsacademync.org</a>
Arin's Good Girl Dog Treats	Our mission is to expand the impact of Arin's passion and support careers for individuals with disabilities that reinforce independence, resilience, and purpose. Our vision is to provide employment opportunities for all individuals who need adaptability by finding meaningful careers that leverage their unique talents and interests.	Contact Name: Talia Wucherer & Arin Wucherer Email: talia@arinsgoodgirldogtreats.com Address: PO Box 173, Belmont, NC 28012 Website: <a href="http://www.arinsgoodgirldogtreats.com">www.arinsgoodgirldogtreats.com</a> Phone #: (704) 747-8819
Neon Cuties Nail Lacquer	Providing hope for those with sensitivities and allergies that still want to feel pretty with their Neon Cuties (nails and toes)	Contact Name: Renisha Potts Email: neoncutiesnl@gmail.com Website: <a href="http://www.neoncuties.com">www.neoncuties.com</a>
Jenni Laskowski	Sells homemade goodies in hopes of supporting housing and family.	Website: <a href="http://www.etsy.com/shop/Jennisgoods">www.etsy.com/shop/Jennisgoods</a>