

In collaboration with:



Wee Can Pre-School and Early Childhood Program



Sponsored by:



*Kan Jam supports  
the safety of individuals  
with special needs!*



THE ONE.  
THE ONLY.  
KANJAM.

(<http://www.kanjam.com/>)

# FIRE, HOME, AND CAR SAFETY CONFERENCE



## FOR FAMILIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

**Saturday, May 21, 2016  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
(Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m.)

Location: HERITAGE CENTERS  
777 Maryvale Dr.  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

What do we do in a fire/home/car crisis?  
How can we as families with young children  
be prepared if in such a crisis?

Mr. Whalen has trained emergency personnel/first responders regarding people with developmental disabilities, raising awareness within the community about their potential needs during a time of a crisis. Mr. Whalen will incorporate his extensive experience in the field of developmental disabilities and as a professional trainer to this family-focused presentation.

Goals for this conference:

- Learn more about fire, home, and car safety for young children with a variety of developmental disabilities in the event of an emergency
- Learn how to be prepared and what to have on hand in these emergencies
- Discuss how to handle these potential crises as a family and how to be sure your caregivers know how to respond
- Learn what our first responders know about children with special needs
- Learn how to be sure your local first responders are aware of the special needs in your family
- Opportunity to have a state professional check your car seat for safe installation

### Conference Details:

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.:

#### **Check-In**

9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.:

#### **Opening Remarks and Introduction of Presenter**

by Mr. Frank Cammarata, Director  
Erie County Office of the Disabled

9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.:

#### **Fire, Home, and Car Safety for Families of Young Children With Special Needs**

With Mr. Dave Whalen, along with:  
Dominic Creamer of the Town of Amherst,  
and Officer Scott Scharlau  
of the Cheektowaga Police Department

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:

#### **Car Seat Safety Check**

by professionals in the parking lot,  
as well as an **Agency Resources Fair** indoors,  
with participating agencies  
(Learn what other programs  
and services each agency offers!)



### About the Presenter: Dave Whalen

David Whalen founded Disability Awareness Training (DAT) in September 2004. He specializes in training first responders, emergency managers, human service providers, transportation providers, corporations and businesses, places of worship, and educators. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology (1984) and his Masters of Science in Education degree in Counseling Psychology (1986) from St. Bonaventure University, currently serving as the Buffalo Alumni Chapter President.

Mr. Whalen has worked in the disability field his entire career. He spent 17 years at Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara serving individuals with developmental disabilities, overseeing all programs in his final role as Vice President of Program Operations. From 1998-2002 he was President of the NYS Day Service Providers Association.

Mr. Whalen developed the innovative Town Hall Training whereby he trains advocates to work within their municipality on disability matters, including how to start a committee. This initiative was presented at the national FEMA Get Real II conference in Arlington, VA. In March 2011, he accepted an invitation to the White House for an historic MOU signing between FEMA and the National Disability Rights Network. In April 2015, he became a FEMA-certified Access and Functional Needs Trainer.

In the fall of 2010, Mr. Whalen wrote a collaborative grant with Niagara University to develop Disability Awareness Training for First Responders. In March 2011, Erie County (NY) appointed him to sit on the Disability Advisory Board. He chairs the Town of Amherst Committee on Disabilities. In January 2014 he joined the advisory council of the National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability, and attended the April 29, 2014, Senate Hearing on Law Enforcement Responses to Disabled Americans: Promising Approaches for Protecting Public Safety, providing written testimony. He accepted an invitation to join the Niagara County Behavioral Health and Justice Committee in March 2015. He was recognized for his consult with the Department of Justice's Community Relations Services for work on law enforcement disability awareness training and joined them on the International Association of Chiefs of Police Civil Rights committee at the October 2015 conference in Chicago. In April 2016 WNY Deaf Access Services honored him as the Advocate of the Year.

Mr. Whalen and his wife Sandy live in Williamsville and are proud parents of their 19 year old twins David and Rachel. David and Rachel were born 11 weeks premature, from that David has cerebral palsy and seizure disorder. He is currently a senior at Williamsville South while Rachel is a freshman at Cornell University studying English Literature and Psychology.

Please refer to Mr. Whalen's website for more details [frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu) or [www.disabilityawarenesstraining.com](http://www.disabilityawarenesstraining.com)

#### **Co-Presenters:**

- Dominic Creamer, Town of Amherst Emergency Services & Safety Coordinator, Firefighter and EMT, serving 20 years with the Snyder Fire Department.
- Officer Scott Scharlau, Cheektowaga Police Department, NYS Child Safety Seat Board member, Accident Investigator, Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician

## FREE Conference!

**Fire, Home, and Car Safety  
for Families of Young Children  
with Special Needs**

**Saturday, May 21, 2016**

**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

(Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m.)

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED!**

**Location:**

**HERITAGE CENTERS  
777 Maryvale Dr.  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225**

**ADULTS only.**

**Pre-registration Required.**

*Limited registration!*

*Only 170 seats available—*

*Register NOW!*

Please register by May 16, 2016.

\*We regret we are not able to provide childcare for this event. Please plan accordingly.

### Two Simple Ways to Register:

Please call  
**WNY211** by simply dialing 2-1-1,  
or 1.888.696.9211

Or

Register online at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/nrwGpxoatu>

