

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2019
One of A Kind

Date	Person Featured	Hometown	Summary
March 1	Thomas Spitaleri	Franklin Square	Advocate who is active in town events; wants to be a volunteer fireman, to work with veterans and to someday be president.
March 2	Shameka Andrews	Albany	Disability rights advocate; authored children's book
March 3	Michael Harp	Hamburg	Works at local business, continues skill development and is learning to be more independent.
March 4	Christian Gordon	Staten Island	Works at Barnes and Noble and Comic Book Jones, avid cinema buff who writes movie reviews, is working on first romance novel.
March 5	Carl Grayson	Rochester	Disability advocate, working on a play, wants to open a bakery one day.
March 6	Lisa Severino	Glen Oaks	Self-advocacy field assistant, appointed by governor to Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, speaker and teacher at Queensborough College and College of Staten Island
March 7	Brittany Schavione	South Huntington	Started Brittany's Baskets of Hope to bring baskets with baby items to families of babies with Down syndrome. Delivered more than 700 baskets in 48 states.
March 8	Kristen Ahern & Todd Begore	Plattsburgh	Married couple who worked hard to achieve independent lifestyle.
March 9	Edwin Gonzalez	Centereach	Renal disease survivor who, thanks to improved health, enjoys exploring his community and learning job skills.
March 10	Katelyn Hoskins	Woodstock	Works, plans to attend Ulster County Community College, would like to become a veterinarian assistant and enjoys interacting with friends in her neighborhood.
March 11	Michelle Wolfe	Oneida	Six-year employee at bank, recently received drivers' license and bought a car; wants to one day buy her own house.
March 12	Leah Shapiro	Merrick	Works as art teacher at a pre-school, exhibits her own artwork.
March 13	Carolyn Howden	Danesville	Works at several jobs, volunteers with animals and enjoys shopping and playing Yahtzee or Uno.
March 14	Residents and Staff at Highgate IRA	Buffalo	Numerous community volunteer projects to support children in need of winter accessories, fill food pantries, etc.
March 15	Ella Yonkers	Troy	Horsewoman starting business to bring horses to elderly and children for therapy or entertainment.
March 16	Matthew Kemper	East Meadow	Holds three jobs, is involved with the Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club and is an advocate for improved transportation on Long Island.

March 17	Allen VanVorhis	Avon	Works at several different jobs, positive spirit motivates coworkers, enjoys vacationing and listening to country music.
March 18	Lauren Bianco	Yaphony	Accomplished wildlife photographer; selected as runner-up of national Canon competition.
March 19	Ketrina Hazlett	Brooklyn	Ms. Wheelchair New York, hosted the first disability awareness workshop for employees within the NYC Department of Education, appointed to Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, pursuing her education with goal to become a teacher.
March 20	Dennis Pullen	Oswego	Accomplished artist who paints by mouth; teaches elementary students about disabilities.
March 21	Jeremiah Ihoma	Farmington	Wrote children's book "My Super Life With Autism", participates in public and media speaking about autism.
March 22	Dalton Letta	Rochester	Helped Town of Gates receive the first ever Autism Friendly Town designation in New York State, spearheads #NoOneEatsLunchAlone campaign to combat bullying and isolation in lunchrooms.
March 23	Juan Baez	Perry	Works at local farms, churches and athletic clubs, is learning to speak Spanish so he can communicate with his family and is described as a "ray of sunshine."
March 24	BJ Stasio	Buffalo	Started RACIN!, to give people with disabilities opportunities to participate wholly in road races, is a staunch disability advocate and community volunteer.
March 25	Darren Jackson	East Concord	Special assistant to OPWDD Region 1 director, trains people to be productive members of committees and boards of directors, enjoys his church's multi-day canoeing trip, bike riding and taking trips.
March 26	Kayla McKeon	Syracuse	First registered lobbyist in Washington D.C. who has Down syndrome; recently appointed to the President's Committee on People with Intellectual Disabilities.
March 27	Ashley Hidy	Springville	Tops Markets employee who is training for additional work responsibilities, enjoys financial independence, wants to vacation and live on her own.
March 28	Brittany Bouldin	Taberg	Overcame shyness and enjoys working, ice skating and volunteering. Is studying for driver's permit test.
March 29	Keith Caputo	Center Moriches	Established Helping Makes U Happy nonprofit organization, received many town, county and statewide recognitions for community service.
March 30	Johnathan Piestrzynski	Lake Placid	Is an Adirondack 46'er; enjoys skiing
March 31	John Fitzgerald	Lake Clear	Completed Tupper Lake Winter Triad and Saranac Lake 6er hiking challenges, enjoys skiing, works at Sodexo at Paul Smith College.