



# Community Outreach at WIHD: who are they and what do they do?

## WIHD.org

- The *Westchester Institute for Human Development* is a comprehensive community resource impacting the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, vulnerable children, and families by providing direct medical, dental, clinical, and social services; conducting innovative research to inform best practices in the field; and training current and future professionals.

## Community Support Network

- The CSN at WIHD serves individuals with special needs and their families: from infancy to preschool, throughout the school-age years, and into the adult world of higher education and employment.



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# Social Media Parent Resources available at WIHD:



## Lots of way to connect with WIHD professionals and parents:

- WIHD CSN on Facebook @WIHDCmtySuptNet or @WIHD.CSN on Twitter and Instagram
- Adult IDD Services on FB: @wihd.csn.Itssresidentialops
- SpEdu to Transition: wihd.csn.sped2hstransition
- Self-Direction Services on FB: @selfdforumwestchester
- Seeking support staff on FB: @westchesterrocklanddspjobbank
- Bilingual SpEdu Support: on FB @WIHD.CSN.ESPANOL
- Peer to Peer (**PRIVATE**) Social Groups: on FB & Instagram/Twitter @GetWIHDit contact **Brendan Klein**



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# How Did TicTacGO Happen?

- Started over five years ago with only 12 members
- Facebook setting is **PRIVATE** so only members can see events, pics, etc.
- I learned how to plan and organize events – now we have 304 members
- The ages of kids 12 - 50 but half are parents, DSP's and educators
- What we do:
  - Movies, bowling, birthday parties, Broadway shows, sports, etc.
  - Fantasy Football-watch the games every Sunday at member house/apartment/Ron Blacks restaurant, having movies in my backyard or on zoom. Scavenger hunt at Bronx zoo, malls, Grand Central. Get many more other social events
- Community Service: Pleasantville Community Gardens, Empty Bowls for 914 Cares, Rice Socks for kids with ASD in honor of 9-11 victims and much more.
- Vacations! Took our first cruise together in July to Canada/Boston before COVID.



# Online/in person social events

- Since COVID has started We been doing Zoom events like movies, Sunday football games/March Madness UNO, Bingo and Family Feud chat and catch up with others. I have started now to do more in person events like, going for walk at Kensico Dam, movies/ice cream in my backyard and bowling. So much more.



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# Expanding FB Social Groups at WIHD

- WIHD wants to learn from my social media experiment and teach others how to create groups in their own community
- I was hired to teach people how to create NEW Facebook social groups so that they can create their own social/self advocating groups in their own community.
- WIHD Tech Team works with me to help educate parents and young adults about internet safety.
- We created a NETWORK of small FB social groups (like TicTacGO and GetWIHDit) that can plan meet ups in the community, now we have 900 members in my 13 social groups
- Work to encourage independence and self advocacy among peers
- Contribute social tips/plans to the monthly newsletters and flyers.
- **READY TO START A GROUP?** I can teach you how to make your own group on Facebook.



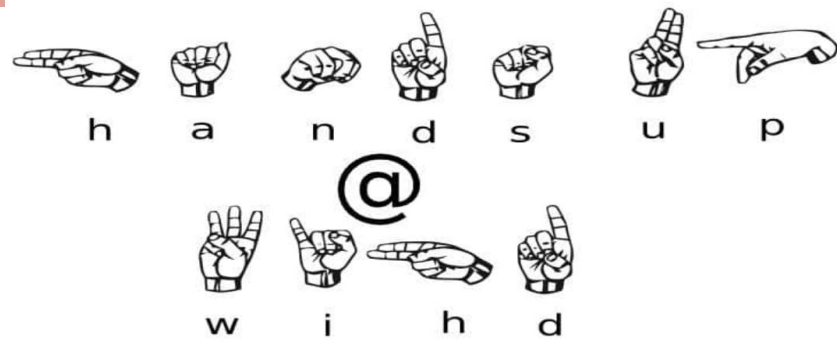
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# So what is TicTacGO and GetWIHDit

A fun, free Facebook social group that plans events with friends, fantasy football league, community service, travel, celebrations and more.



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## Creating a Social Network of Facebook Groups at WIHD!

WIHD has secured a grant to expand on the social opportunities for individuals with disabilities through social media groups like TicTacGO and GetWIHDit. **Join the team!**



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**Here is my video about my social groups.**



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**Here is what we all do in our  
community.**

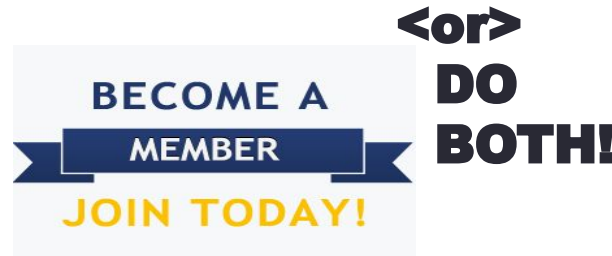


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# Questions? Contact

us:

- **Brendan Klein:**  
[bklein@wihd.org](mailto:bklein@wihd.org)  
Coordinator of Self Advocacy & Community Engagement  
My Office Phone,
- 914-493-8119
- If you are interested to join in any of my groups, you need to fill out a social group question form on WIHD website or I can show you how to create your own group.  
<https://www.wihd.org/what-we-do/community-support-network/adult-services-and-housing-navigation/self-advocacy/>



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