



Building bridges between law enforcement and Niagara Falls youth



Pictured are the participants in the 2021 Building Bridges Program at the Packard Court Community Center.

Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti, Legislator Owen Steed, Niagara Falls Police Chief John Faso and members of the

Niagara County Sheriff's Office kicked off "Niagara County Building Bridges" for the summer of 2021. The program helps foster

relationships between children from the City of Niagara Falls and law enforcement in social settings, rather than police-related instruction.

"I really enjoy this program and interacting with our youth in a way that has them view our officers as their neighbors, not some faceless police force that shows up only when there is trouble," Filicetti said. "Our social interactions hopefully make these young folks comfortable with law enforcement and show we are all part of one big community."

Steed said 40 children between the ages of 8 and 12 will visit the Maid of the Mist and Cave of the

Winds, participate in a fishing exposition with the ENCON Police, go ice skating with members of a Division I hockey team and visit the Aquarium of Niagara, among other activities scheduled for days in July and August.

"As I have talked with many of our participants over the years, they admitted they were weary of police before the program," Steed said. "But as they got to know our deputies, their view has become entirely positive. That is why this type of community outreach into our neighborhoods is so important."

Filicetti said the partnership with the City of Niagara Falls and

other local sponsors is an important part of the program's success.

"Mayor Restaino and Chief Faso have been great partners and supporters of the program and share our vision to build links between law enforcement and the community," he said. "I also want to thank the Packard Court Community Center and its general manager, Samika Sullivan, as well as the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, for allowing us to use their facility. And of course, special thanks to our business sponsors who create great experiences for the kids."

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Frank, a 44 year old husband and father of 2 small children, suffered a traumatic injury on June 25, 2021. He is unable to speak or move his right arm. Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Frank has been a paramedic in the area for 12 years and is well known in the bowling community. He has a long road of recovery ahead of him and this benefit is being held to help offset the unexpected medical bills and help the family with everyday expenses.

For information or to donate, contact: Andrea Ochal - andrea.murray17@yahoo.com or Dana Bellavia Rodgers - dmrodgers28@gmail.com

Dr. Colin Anderson joins team at Fichte, Endl & Elmer

Dr. Colin Anderson has returned to his upstate New York roots by joining Fichte, Endl & Elmer Eyecare. Anderson was raised in Syracuse and is a graduate of Binghamton University.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry, Anderson obtained his M.D. at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He then completed his ophthalmology residency at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. There, he enjoyed seeing patients and eye diseases from all over the world.

Anderson served as chief resident during his final year of training and currently serves on the Young Ophthalmologists Committee for the New York State Ophthalmological Society. His passion in ophthalmology is building relationships with his patients and using state-of-the-art technology and techniques to treat their eyes. Three particular areas of interest include the fields of cataract surgery, glaucoma and LASIK.



Dr. Colin Anderson

In his spare time, he enjoys being an amateur food critic with his wife, as well as exploring all kinds of outdoor recreation.

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