



WHAT'S NEXT?

Employment • Post-Secondary Edu • Social • Housing

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

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Project of:



EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESSES

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Zab's Place	Our mission is to help young adults with special needs harness their own special talents & prepare them to transition to rewarding careers & realize their dreams of leading meaningful lives.	Contact Name: Bentzion and Rochel Groner Email: info@zabsplace.com Address: 100 N. Trade St. Matthews, NC 28105 Website: www.zabsplace.org Phone #: (704) 708-5600
Cakeable Charlotte	Cakeable Charlotte is a nonprofit which empowers people, businesses, and communities to achieve their fullest potential through inclusive environments.	Contact Name: Renee Ratcliffe Email: renee@cakeablecharlotte.com Address: 4412 Monroe Road, Suite D. Charlotte, NC 28205 Website: www.cakeablecharlotte.com Phone #: (704) 591-5257
AllAbility Recruiting	A disability recruitment firm specializing in connecting the disability community with meaningful employers.	Contact Name: Anessa Powell Email: all@allabilityrecruiting.com Website: www.allabilityrecruiting.com Phone #: (704) 910-4110
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: www.arinsgoodgirldogtreats.com Phone #: (704) 747-8819
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	Contact Name: Gayle & Peter Knibbe Email: info@gravitatequeencity.com Website: www.gravitatequeencity.com Phone #: (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.	Email: amy.hawkins@dhhs.nc.gov Address: 5501 Executive Center Dr. Suite 101 Charlotte NC 28212 Website: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services Phone #: (980) 296-6736
Coop's Coffee Shop	Coop's Coffee Shop is a family-owned, operated, & funded company that sells high quality coffee with a cause.	Contact Name: Steve and Kim Gustina Email: info@coopscoffeeshop.com Website: www.coopscoffeeshop.com Phone #: (704) 607-1024
Raunyz	Spread happiness -one bracelet at a time!	Contact Name: Shagun Gaur Email: happyraunyz@gmail.com Website: www.raunyz.com Phone #: (910) 352-7507

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
Philips Academy 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.	Contact Name: Amy Firth Email: afirth@philipsacademync.org Address: 3115 Providence Road Charlotte, NC 28211 Website: www.philipsacademync.org Phone #: (704) 365-4533
Winthrop Think College	Offering post-secondary opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities	Contact Name: Ryan Morrison Email: morrisonr@winthrop.edu Address: 320-B Withers Building Rock Hill, SC 29733 Website: www.winthrop.edu/coe/thinkcollege Phone #: (803) 371-0006
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.	Contact Name: Kelly Kelley Email: kkelley@email.ecu.edu Address: 1 University Dr. Cullowhee, NC 28723 Website: www.up.wcu.edu Phone #: (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.	Contact Name: Dr. Susan Hedges Email: ksdap@appstate.edu Website: 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.	Email: beyondacademics@uncg.edu Website: www.beyondacademics.uncg.edu
Rowan Cabarrus Community College SOAR Program	To provide skills, opportunities, awareness and readiness for students with disabilities.	Contact Name: Mandy Thacker Email: mandy.thacker@rccc.edu Address: 1531 Trinity Church Rd. Concord, NC 28027 Website: www.rccc.edu Phone #: (704) 216-3761 or (980) 355-2881
nonPareil Institute	We provide training that enables adults with autism spectrum disorder to acquire skills that will enhance their ability to live a more productive and independent life. We focus on strengths, and our goal is to help each student progress toward their full potential. Whether you're looking to obtain work-readiness skills, the confidence to pursue a college degree, or want to explore a career in the technology field, nonPareil may be for you.	Contact Name: Kim Yard Email: kyard@npitx.org Address: online Website: www.npusa.org Phone #: (972) 290-1354

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 Address: 2820 Selwyn Ave., Box 767, Charlotte NC 28209 Website: CampBlueSkies.org Phone #: (704) 266-2267
Next Step Clubhouse	Next Step Clubhouse was established to serve individuals with special needs in the Greater Charlotte area by targeting social and recreational objectives not met by educational institutions or the community at large.	Contact Name: Chris Link Email: chris@nextstepclubhouse.org Address: 501 N. Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28202 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 Address: 9101 Kings Parade Blvd, Suite 102, Charlotte, NC 28273 Website: www.gigisplayhouse.org/charlotte Phone #: (704) 350-5282
RyzAb0ve Fitness Company	We provide exercise classes and socialization opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to inspire them to live a healthy and more fulfilling lifestyle.	Contact Name: Ryan Bost Email: ryan@ryzab0ve.org Website: www.RyzAb0ve.org Phone #: (704) 244-6247
Special Olympics NC (Mecklenburg County)	To provide year-round sports training & athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children & adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy & participate in a sharing of gifts, skills & friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes & the community.	Contact Name: Jamey Petrucci Email: mecklenburg@sonc.net Address: 309 E Morehead St, Ste 250 Charlotte, North Carolina 28202 Website: sonc.net Phone #: (704) 999-3540
Rae's Playze Adult Day Center	Seeing through the eyes of others.	Contact Name: Cindy Ghazal Email: cghazal@raeplayze.com Address: 7516 East Independence Blvd Website: www.raeplayze.com Phone #: (704) 563-3334
Piedmont Music Therapy, LLC	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 Address: 224 Westinghouse Blvd, Ste 608 Charlotte, NC 28273 Website: www.piedmontmusictherapy.com Phone #: (803) 206-2044
Inspire Inclusion Dance	To create dance class and performance opportunities for dancers with and without disabilities across the Charlotte region.	Contact Name: Camerin Watson Email: inspireinclusiondance@gmail.com Address: 3706 Central Ave, Charlotte, NC 28205 Website: inspireinclusion.wixsite.com/dance Phone #: (404) 786-9690

SOCIAL/ RECREATION

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
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.	Contact Name: Bob Bowler Email: bobbowler5@aol.com Address: Levine Jewish Community Center, 5007 Providence Rd Charlotte, NC 28226 Website: https://sonc.net/local-programs/mecklenburg-county/camp-soar/ Phone #: 704-358-1935 ext. 162
Keith Family YMCA/ Adaptive Programs	To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.	Contact Name: Lydia McGinnis Email: lydia.mcginis@ymcacharlotte.org Address: 8100 Old Mallard Creek Rd. Website: ymcacharlotte.org Phone #: (704) 716-6705
Yoga Includes Me	To provide inclusive opportunities to practice adaptive and accessible yoga and mindfulness.	Contact Name: Sarah Henderson Email: Sarahhendersonyoga@gmail.com Address: 4363 Woodlark Lane 28211 Website: yogaincludesme.com Phone #: (704) 906-8727
Floerchinger Studios	Sharing our families love of art and each other with the world.	Contact Name: Lori Floerchinger Email: webloco3@carolina.rr.com Address: 9207 Essen Lane Charlotte, NC 28210 Website: www.floerchingerstudios.com Phone #: (704) 975-5561
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.	Contact Name: Jeremy Dunham Email: jdun7712@yahoo.com Address: 8510 Mcalpine Park Dr. Suite 114 Charlotte, NC Website: www.lyfesportstraining.com Phone #: (908) 202-6616

MULTI-AREA SERVICE PROVIDERS

Autism Charlotte	Our mission is to embrace and empower children and families	Contact Name: Vicki Coles Email: Victoria.coles@dsa-gc.org Address: 3900 Park Rd Suite C, Charlotte NC Website: www.dsagreatercharlotte.com Phone #: (678) 986-5237
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.	Contact Name: Jennifer Madsen Email: jmadsen@lifespanservices.org Address: 1511 Shopton Road Charlotte, NC 28217 Website: www.lifespanservices.org Phone #: (704) 614-4893

MULTI-AREA SERVICE PROVIDERS

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
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.	<p>Contact Name: John Giampaolo Email: jgiampaolo@alliancehealthplan.org Address: 3025 Freedom Drive, Suite 1800 Charlotte NC 28208 Website: www.alliancehealthplan.org Phone #: 704-677-9676</p>
InReach	To provide innovative housing, employment, & community services to support people with intellectual, developmental & other disabilities & their families.	<p>Contact Name: Robin Garcia, QP Email: rgarcia@inreachnc.org Address: 4530 Park Ave, Suite 300, Charlotte, NC Website: www.inreachnc.org Phone #: (704) 728-6594</p>
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.	<p>Contact Name: Margaret Gaffney & Ryan Platt Email: margaretgaffney@financialguide.com Address: 101 N. McDowell St. Website: www.ASpecialNeedsPlan.com Phone #: (704) 326-7914</p>
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.	<p>Contact Name: La Becky Roe Email: Labeckyroe@gmail.com Address: 5825 Falls Ridge Lane, Charlotte, NC 28269 Website: letstalkaboutittheautismcenter.org Phone #: 704-835-3605</p>
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.	<p>Contact Name: Josette Duncan Email: ourspecialcommunity@gmail.com Address: 3408 Sherwood Circle, Gastonia, NC 28056 Website: www.snci-nc.org Phone #: (704) 491-6503</p>
No Limits Counseling	Mental health counseling and relationship coaching for teens and adults with intellectual disabilities.	<p>Contact Name: Michele Mattox, LCSW, LISW-CP Email: michele@nolimitscounseling.org Address: Virtual throughout NC & SC Website: www.nolimitscounseling.org Phone #: 910-632-4837</p>
Autism Society of North Carolina	Improve the lives of individuals with autism, support their families, and educate communities.	<p>Contact Name: Shagun Gaur Email: sgaur@autismsociety-nc.org Address: 8307 University Executive Dr. #231 Charlotte, NC 28262 Website: www.autismsociety-nc.org Phone #: 910-352-7507</p>
Best Buddies International / NC	To empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through friendship, social opportunities, leadership development and jobs.	<p>Contact Name: Tammy Medlock Email: tammymedlock@bestbuddies.org Address: 10020 Monroe Rd. Suite 210 Website: www.bestbuddies.org/northcarolina Phone #: 704-619-7780</p>

MULTI-AREA SERVICE PROVIDERS

Organization	Mission	Contact Information
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.	<p>Contact Name: Rachel Durban Email: rdurban@autisticadultandteen.com Address: 1816 E 7th St, Charlotte, NC 28204 Website: autisticadultandteen.com Phone #: (704) 255-5244</p>
Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation / Therapeutic & Inclusive Services	<p>Enhancing community wellness through recreation, open space, and natural resources.</p> <p>Email: Kristina.Cudney@mecklenburgcountync.gov and vernice.gallonclyburn@mecklenburgcountync.gov</p>	<p>Contact Name: Kristina Cudney & Vernice Clyburn Address: 5841 Brookshire Blvd. Charlotte NC 28216 Website: www.mecknc.gov/ParkandRec/Therapeutic/Pages/default.aspx Phone #: (704) 301-3036</p>
Ryan's Place, LLC	We cultivate vitality through empowerment of the individual served to optimize each person with disabilities potential and independence in their home and community. Using an integrated approach to whole-person care, Ryan's Place is dedicated to both, qualitative and quantitative results.	<p>Contact Name: Priscilla Perez Sanchez Email: priscilla@ryansplaceclt.com Address: 9715 Northeast Pkwy., Suite 100, Matthews, NC 28105 Website: www.ryansplaceclt.com Phone #: (980) 339-5676</p>
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.	<p>Contact Name: Joe Gentry Email: joegentry@disability-rights.org Address: 5801 Executive Center Drive Website: disability-rights.org Phone #: (704) 537-0550</p>
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.	<p>Contact Name: Nikia Bye Email: nikiabye@trustedparents.org Address: P.O. Box 480688 Website: www.trustedparents.org Phone #: (980) 229-7253</p>
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.	<p>Contact Name: Melinda Plue Email: info@arcnc.org Address: 353 East Six Forks Road, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27609 Website: www.arcnc.org Phone #: (919) 782-4632</p>
Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte	Provide opportunities, resources, connections to our youth/adults with Ds and their families. Advocate for and ensure individuals with Ds are respected and included members of the community.	<p>Contact Name: Vicki Coles Email: Victoria.coles@dsa-gc.org Address: 3900 Park Rd Suite C, Charlotte NC Website: www.dsagreatercharlotte.com Phone #: (678) 986-5237</p>