

Hires/Promotions/ Honors

Stacy VanBlarcom, communications manager for **Lifetime Health Medical Group**, completed the Examination for Accreditation in Public Relations, entitling her to use the APR professional designation. VanBlarcom joins 24 professionals in the Buffalo Niagara chapter to earn accreditation.

• • •

The Meals on Wheels Foundation of WNY has re-elected **Charles Hardy** to its board of directors for a second term. Meals on Wheels for WNY serves more than 900,000 nutritious meals to more than 3,600 in-need homebound clients locally each year.

• • •

Renee A. Filip, chief operating officer at **UBMD Physician's Group**, is the newly elected chair of the board of directors of The Children's Guild Foundation Inc., a philanthropic grant-making foundation that supports health care, research, education and therapeutic recreation programs and services for children with special needs in Western New York.

• • •

Memorial Medical Center pharmacist **Amy Wojciechowski** was named New Practitioner of the Year by the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists. The award recognizes leadership, vision and continuous contributions to the field of pharmacy.

• • •

The Erie County Law Enforcement Foundation announced the 2017 Recipients of their Community Service Awards, which honor distinguished individuals for

dedicated service and outstanding contributions to law enforcement. Honored were **Rosanne Johnson, Esq.**; **Cary Frieling**; **Sgt. Robert Cathart**; Detective **Kenneth Morano**; **Lieut. Thomas Whelan**; **Richard Kaufman, Esq.**; **Chief Ernie Masullo**; **Gina Doyle Sr.**; Investigator **Richard Qualey**; **Lieut. John Ford** and **Russell Salvatore**.

Company Connections

Rochester-based **Vargas Associates** opened a Buffalo office to support the growth of the facilities project management, interior design and relocation management company. The firm works with health care, education, municipal and corporate organizations in creating, upgrading and relocating workspace environments.

• • •

The **East Aurora Co-op Market** was named "Startup of the Year" by Food Co-op Initiative, a national co-op development organization.

• • •

22nd Century Group Inc., a plant biotechnology company that is focused on tobacco harm reduction and cannabis research, announced it signed a collaborative research agreement with **DentNeurosciences Research Center**. The agreement features a clinical trial that will use functional magnetic resonance imaging to image the brains of smokers.

• • •

Astronics Corp., through its wholly owned subsidiaries **Astronics Armstrong Aerospace** and **Astronics Ballard Technology**, announced it received installation

approval by the European Aviation Safety Agency, Transport Canada, and Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil for its webFB Wireless Electronic Flight Bag device for use on Boeing 737 aircraft.

• • •

EPIC - Every Person Influences Children, announced that it has received a \$2,500 grant from the TEGNA Foundation in support of its Internet & Social Media Safety program.

• • •

J. Fitzgerald Group announced the selection of six regional nonprofit organizations that will receive free advertising and marketing services as part of the only CreateAthon event in Western New York. They are **Adoption STAR**; **Genesee / Orleans Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse**; **Legal Assistance of Western New York Inc.**; **Masons Mission Foundation of Western New York**; **Mental Health Association in Niagara County Inc.** and **WNY Ovarian Cancer Project**.

Contributions

M&T Bank will provide Buffalo Bills tickets to eight local nonprofit organizations for home games this season, inside the "Comfort Zone," a private section inside the M&T Club at New Era Field. The eight recipients are: **Buffalo Maritime Center**, **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper**, **EPIC for Children**, **Hospice Niagara**, **Journey's End Refugee Services**, **Kevin Guest House**, the **Massachusetts Avenue Project** and **YMCA Buffalo Niagara**.