



Liftoff WNY | Onboard: 6-Month Celebration Highlights | June 2025



Liftoff Celebrates 6-Months of Onboard!

On January 18th Liftoff WNY officially launched *Onboard*, our growing network of multi-sector ambassadors, united to advocate on behalf of young children in Western New York. Onboard invites community partners to champion a healthy early childhood ecosystem with a focus on key issues for young children such as childcare accessibility and affordability, increasing developmental screening and improving the Early Intervention system. Since our launch, Onboard has grown to over **50 ambassadors** representing six Western New York counties. Our ambassadors represent diverse sectors including medical, business, education, early learning professionals, early intervention and preschool special education providers, philanthropy, parents, and more. As we reflect on the past six months, we're proud to celebrate the momentum we have built in partnership with our ambassadors.

Advocacy in Action: Onboard in the Community



13 meetings were held with local and state elected officials highlighting Onboard members, calling state legislators to support Lutoff's priorities. An incredibly successful advocacy day in Albany kicked off our Onboard action and led to two letters submitted by Senators in support of our Kids Can't Wait Campaign agenda.

Several Onboard members were featured in recent news stories and articles:

Stacey Chambers was featured in a story about early intervention at the Summit Center [WKBW Story](#)

Max Donatelli was inducted into the State Veterans Hall of Fame, and his advocacy and partnership with the disability community over the course of his life was highlighted: [Buffalo Ledger Story](#)

Dr. Danielle Lewis was highlighted in an article about literacy, promoting our friends at Read to Succeed: [Buffalo News Story](#)

Onboard was designed to engage ambassadors in ways that highlight their strengths and builds their advocacy skills. Every month, ambassadors receive our *Onboard Insider* exclusive newsletter to help engage our ambassadors in ongoing advocacy campaigns and update them on key events and activities happening within our community.

In the first six months of Onboard, ambassadors have:

- Attended the **Advocacy in Action Summit 2025** at Buffalo State College
 - Participated in the **4th Annual Community Health and Advocacy Conference** at Jacobs School of Medicine
 - Celebrated Father's Day with a [special video](#) from **Joe Ray**, Director of Marketing Services at Lighthouse Marketing Services explaining why he got Onboard and celebrating dads and those that offer them support as they navigate the early days of parenting
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In Their Own Words

We asked our first 50 Onboard ambassadors to describe Onboard in their own words.

Here's what they shared:

“Advocacy”

“Bringing people together”

“Uniting for one cause”

“Gaining momentum”

“Cooperation”

“Informing the future of children”

“Purpose”

“Awesomeness”

“Getting involved to help children”

“Affirmation of like-mindedness”

“A train on a shared track- inviting people on board at every stop”

Thank You—And Let's Keep Going

We're deeply grateful to our Onboard ambassadors. Your voices are shaping a brighter future for babies, toddlers, and families in Western New York. Onboard is like an amplifier: when we unite your unique voice with our collective network, we become a powerful chorus for change.

Already Onboard? We can't wait to see the impact you'll continue to make.

Not yet part of the network? There's always room for one more voice.

Join us and help ensure every child in our region gets the strong start they deserve.

Join Onboard Today



Instagram: @Liftoff_WNY



X (formerly Twitter): @LiftoffWNY



LinkedIn: @Liftoff WNY



Facebook: @Liftoff WNY

Connect with Liftoff on socials or
visit us at liftoffwny.org



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