

## Resources available for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

### APD – Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is the state department responsible for handling the disability waiver in the state of Florida. The DD waiver is called ibudget. APD provides assistance in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for supports and services. They work in partnership with local communities and private providers.

#### Agency Mission

The Agency Supports Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Living, Learning, and Working in their Communities.

#### Agency Goals

1. Increase access to community-based services, treatment, and residential options.
2. Increase the number of individuals with developmental disabilities in the workforce.
3. Improve management of the agency and oversight of providers.

#### Eligibility

In order to be eligible for services, an individual must have a developmental disability which occurs prior to age 18. Disabilities served include Intellectual Disability, Autism, Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, Prader-Willi syndrome, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, or individuals between the ages of 3-5 at high risk for a developmental disability. As part of the application process, APD will request proof of a developmental disability diagnosis. Children under 18 who are granted waiver services are also able to take advantage of Medicaid benefits, regardless of income.

#### Some Services available on the waiver:

Companion, Support Coordination, ADT (Adult Day Training), Therapies (PT, TS, OT, BT), Supportive Living Coaching, Transportation, Supported Employment, Companion, Dietician, Consumable Medical Supplies, and Respite.

<http://apdcares.org/customers/application/>

#### CDC+ (Consumer Directed Care Plus)

A Medicaid waiver program in which individuals are able to choose and hire providers of their choice, instead of utilizing specific waiver providers and agencies. The program also allows them to negotiate rates and pay what they feel would be fair.

<http://apdcares.org/cdplus/welcome/docs/0-Welcome.Packet.Contents.pdf>

<p align="center"><b><u>Social Security Income for Adults (and some children)</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://www.ssa.gov">https://www.ssa.gov</a>  <a href="https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf">https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf</a></p>	
<p align="center"><b><u>Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014</u></b></p> <p>“ABLE United is Florida’s qualified ABLE program, which was established to encourage and assist people with disabilities to save private funds to support health, independence and quality of life. It allows individuals to save up to \$14,000 annually without affecting benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid while the funds in the account grow tax-free. Funds can be used on qualified expenses covering a wide range of categories including housing, transportation, and basic living expenses”.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ableunited.com">http://www.ableunited.com</a></p>	
<p align="center"><b><u>Early Steps</u></b></p> <p>“Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to <u>eligible</u> infants and toddlers, age birth to 36 months, who have or are at-risk for developmental disabilities or delays. Early intervention supports families and caregivers to increase their child’s participation in daily activities and routines that are important to the family”</p> <p><a href="http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/early-steps/index.html">http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/early-steps/index.html</a></p>	
<p align="center"><b><u>VPK Specialized Instructional Services</u></b></p> <p>“In 2012-2013, a child who had a disability as evidenced by a current individual educational plan (IEP) and was age-eligible for VPK became eligible for specialized instructional services (SIS). The Department of Education approves SIS providers whose services meet statutory standards, maintains a list of approved providers, and notifies each school district and early learning coalition of the approved provider list.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider_menu/specialized_instructional_services_providers.aspx">http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider_menu/specialized_instructional_services_providers.aspx</a></p>	
<p align="center"><b><u>Gardiner Scholarship</u></b></p> <p>“The Gardiner Scholarship Program provides eligible students a scholarship that can be used to purchase approved services or products in order to design a customized educational program for the student. Scholarships can be used for specialized services such as speech or occupational therapy, instructional materials, tuition at an eligible private school, contributions to a college prepaid account and more. The program is directly administered by state-approved nonprofit scholarship funding organizations”.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/gardiner/">http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/gardiner/</a></p>	

## United Healthcare Children's Foundation

- Medical Grant
- \$10,000 in a lifetime
- Meet income requirements (\$125,000 or less for a family of 5)
- Have private insurance
- Have a medical condition certified by a physician (mental health, medical, developmental, social)

<https://www.uhccf.org>

## Individual Education Plan (IEP) – Public School System

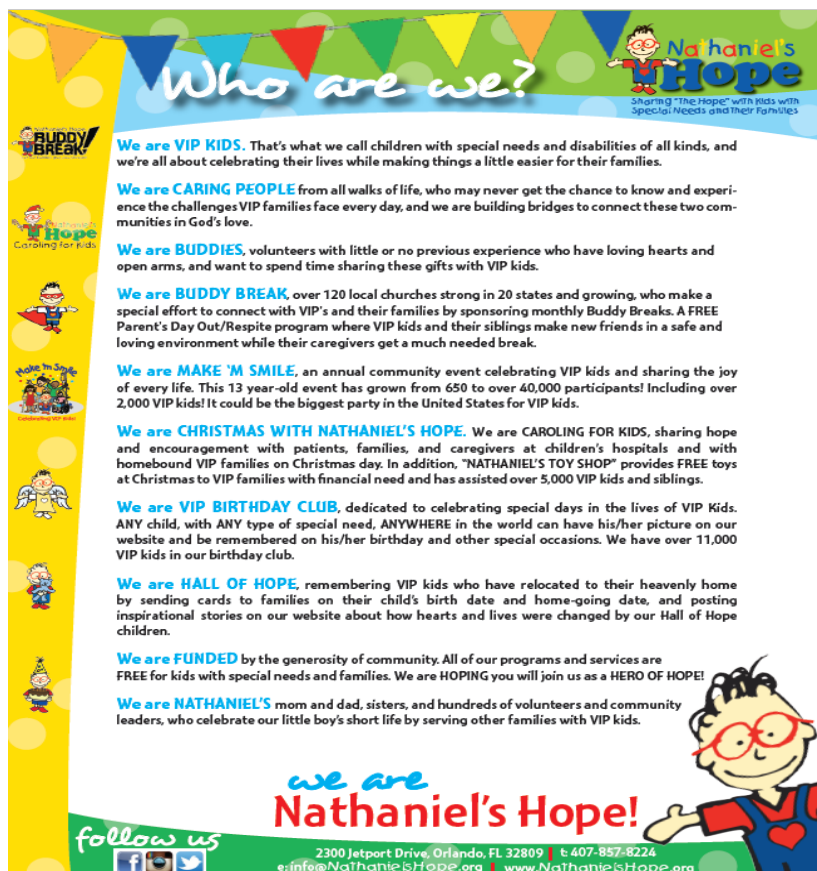
### Orange County:

<https://www.ocps.net/cms/one.aspx?portalId=54703&pageId=88935>

### Seminole County:

<https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/district/departments/exceptional-student-support-services/ese-services/>

## Nathaniel's Hope



**Who are we?**

**We are VIP KIDS.** That's what we call children with special needs and disabilities of all kinds, and we're all about celebrating their lives while making things a little easier for their families.

**We are CARING PEOPLE** from all walks of life, who may never get the chance to know and experience the challenges VIP families face every day, and we are building bridges to connect these two communities in God's love.

**We are BUDDIES,** volunteers with little or no previous experience who have loving hearts and open arms, and want to spend time sharing these gifts with VIP kids.

**We are BUDDY BREAK,** over 120 local churches strong in 20 states and growing, who make a special effort to connect with VIP's and their families by sponsoring monthly Buddy Breaks. A FREE Parent's Day Out/Respite program where VIP kids and their siblings make new friends in a safe and loving environment while their caregivers get a much needed break.

**We are MAKE 'M SMILE,** an annual community event celebrating VIP kids and sharing the joy of every life. This 13 year-old event has grown from 650 to over 40,000 participants! Including over 2,000 VIP kids! It could be the biggest party in the United States for VIP kids.

**We are CHRISTMAS WITH NATHANIEL'S HOPE.** We are CAROLING FOR KIDS, sharing hope and encouragement with patients, families, and caregivers at children's hospitals and with homebound VIP families on Christmas day. In addition, "NATHANIEL'S TOY SHOP" provides FREE toys at Christmas to VIP families with financial need and has assisted over 5,000 VIP kids and siblings.

**We are VIP BIRTHDAY CLUB,** dedicated to celebrating special days in the lives of VIP Kids. ANY child, with ANY type of special need, ANYWHERE in the world can have his/her picture on our website and be remembered on his/her birthday and other special occasions. We have over 11,000 VIP kids in our birthday club.

**We are HALL OF HOPE,** remembering VIP kids who have relocated to their heavenly home by sending cards to families on their child's birth date and home-going date, and posting inspirational stories on our website about how hearts and lives were changed by our Hall of Hope children.

**We are FUNDED** by the generosity of community. All of our programs and services are FREE for kids with special needs and families. We are HOPING you will join us as a HERO OF HOPE!

**We are NATHANIEL'S** mom and dad, sisters, and hundreds of volunteers and community leaders, who celebrate our little boy's short life by serving other families with VIP kids.

**we are Nathaniel's Hope!**

follow us

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