

The Nicholas Center

Innovate, Inspire & Include



Revolutionizing the way Autistic adults learn, live & work.

TNCNewYork.org

About Us

Founded in 2011, The Nicholas Center (TNC) began in the backyard barn of Co-Founder Stella Spanakos' Long Island home. A "hometown" solution and tribute to her late husband, Paul Kitsos to address the unmet needs of their only child, Nicholas and a handful of his classmates. TNC has established itself as a leader in providing exceptional experiences for the Autism community as a pre-eminent 501c3 nonprofit organization with a social mission **to create innovative programs and services that allow Autistic individuals to learn, live and work in the community.** TNC promotes inclusion and offers opportunity through vocational training, supported employment, community partnerships and peer connections. The organization is comprised of a neurotypical workforce.

- Supported Employment Credentialed Staff.
- Provider of Choice for School Districts.
- Delivering Home & Community-based services.
- Offering 12 months of continuous service on Long Island and in Westchester.
- Offering Vocational Training and Supported Employment in work settings.
- Ongoing commitment to staff job satisfaction and personal growth within the field.
- Staff includes Licensed Behavioral Analysts, Registered Behavioral Technicians and graduates in the field of Special Education, Psychology, Social Work, and Direct Support Professionals, specializing in Autism.



Creating Opportunities

Vocational Training & Supported Employment

TNC offers a Supported Employment Program (SEMP), inclusive partnerships and micro-business initiatives including on-the-job supported opportunities to gain, maintain and retain competitive work.

Community Stewardship

Utilizing the community as a “university,” TNC participants and support staff bring our mission into the community every day – completing tasks, offering service and engaging with local businesses, organizations and neighbors. Individuals gain valuable skills and experiences while helping local non-profits attain their mission.

Partners include: Plant-a-Row for the Hungry, Hillside Food Outreach, North Shore Animal League America, Westchester Children’s Museum, Twin Pines Co-Op and United Way.



Expanding Reach Beyond Our Walls

Experiences & Marketable Skills

- **TNC Media Lab** – offering the opportunity to write, produce, record and anchor our online news program, podcast and monthly newsletter.
- **Pantry Programs** – The Nicholas Center Provides - serving over 4,000 people on Long Island and in Westchester.
- **TNC Chocolate Lab and Candle Lab** – offers vocational training in culinary arts, candle-making and retail management. Items produced are sold at the TNC Chocolate Lab & Gift Shop, to help fund the program.



The Nicholas Center creates innovative programs and services that allow Autistic individuals to learn, live and work in the community.

The Nicholas Center (TNC) supports individuals to learn critical life skills, improve social and communication abilities, gain vocational training and jobs and engage in meaningful community projects. With a focus on creating inclusive employment opportunities, TNC offers on-the-job supported employment and has created social enterprise businesses, including TNC Chocolate Lab and TNC Candle Lab.



The Nicholas Center offers a safe and engaging environment with opportunities to socialize and foster vital peer connections.

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Nicole Ferrara, *Executive Director*

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