

# Women of Influence

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Putting People First.



**PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:** *Having the ability to work in a field where I've been able to touch the lives of so many children and adults with developmental disabilities.*

## NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

### Tracy Panzarella

*Director of Clinical Services,  
Autism Services, Inc.*

- ▶ **Born in:** Buffalo • **Lives in:** Amherst • **tpanzarella@autism-services-inc.org** • **Joined company:** 2002 • **Years in my field:** 16
- ▶ **All about:** I grew up in a very traditional family – my father worked in a factory and my mother was stay-at-home. My younger brother and I were blessed with a very happy childhood, and our parents instilled a very strong work ethic and set of values in both of us.
- ▶ **College:** B.A., speech and hearing science, University at Buffalo; M.A., communicative disorders and sciences/ speech-language pathology, University at Buffalo
- ▶ **When I'm not working, I'm:** Cooking, baking, reading, shopping, gardening, attending concerts and plays, spending time with family and friends.
- ▶ **Most fun event in the last year:** My recent birthday. I had several celebrations with my family, friends, and co-workers, including a surprise party and brunch. This year was also made very special due to the addition of an adorable rescue dog into my life.
- ▶ **Would like to meet:** Jesus Christ
- ▶ **Self-description:** Authentic
- ▶ **I can't get rid of:** A pair of Mickey Mouse ears from a trip to Disneyland when I was 4.
- ▶ **Career advice, Twitter style:** Be persistent and don't give up, no matter what it is you want in your career or life.
- ▶ **This keeps me up at night:** Unfinished work and a to-do list that never ends.
- ▶ **This might surprise people:** I was very shy when I was younger.
- ▶ **My wishful super power:** Ability to fly