



<http://www.starbridgeinc.org/TIESprogram>

TIES (Together Including Every Student) is a program which promotes the participation of children/young adults who have developmental disabilities in extracurricular and community activities by providing naturalized, effective support. This support is provided by trained student volunteers in grades 8-12 in the Cortland Enlarged City School District. TIES is available to students residing in the Cortland Enlarged City School District between the ages of 8-21 who have a developmental disability.

Participants and volunteers join a wide variety of activities based on the participant's choice. Afterschool clubs, trips through the youth bureau, YMCA or YWCA programs, arts and crafts classes, library programs, sports programs, swimming, cub/boy scouts, girl scouts, are all examples of the activities that are enjoyed by both the participants and the volunteers.

What Parents Say About TIES

- "One aspect that deserves celebration is that TIES is for all students; it is an effort to unite children with peers so they can learn with and from each other. Their learning is enhanced by their diversity."
- "I liked the freedom, joy, and excitement it brought my son."
- "My child's success was a priority."
- "The volunteers were great; they each did an awesome job working with my daughter and making her feel comfortable."

What Participants Say About TIES

- "I liked having a friend go with me to the dance."
- "This is the first event that I have ever been able attend! Thank you so very much!"

What Volunteers Say About TIES

- "I really enjoyed the program; it helped me learn a lot about myself."
- "I liked seeing the smile on her face and being able to experience the program with her."
- "I learned that just because someone is different, you don't have to treat them differently."

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about **TIES**, please contact

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