



# NBPS Newsflash

## April 2023

Greetings Team NBPS,

We have much to be excited about as we enter April and look forward to warmer, sunnier days. We have completed nearly 75% of the 2022 – 2023 school year and I appreciate your dedication to make an impact on every minute.

We have so much in which to be proud as our students are thriving in many ways. Just to note some of their recent accomplishments in sports, fine arts and student government. Congratulations to New Bedford High School senior, Jose Bonilla, the State Division 1 Wrestling Champion (see page 3) and to the NBHS Drama Club for another successful spring production. Kudos, too, goes to NBHS students Cynthia Torres and Sawai Vilayvanh, who proudly represented New Bedford High School at Massachusetts Student Government Day at the State House.

As we move forward, our focus remains on providing social-emotional and well-being supports for all students and staff; language acquisition resources; quality Pre-Kindergarten instruction; technology enhancements (over 16,000 devices and new Wi-Fi access points); facility upgrades including multimillion-dollar projects; equitable and high-level curriculum offering Early College and increased dual enrollment.

Thanks to all of you, I am proud to say we have been on a positive trajectory that will continue into the future. Our school campuses are being updated as Pacheco ES has new fencing; Rodman will have a new intercom system and the NBHS pool is being updated and expected to be ready for use this September. We are also assessing our playgrounds at every elementary school to make improvements or create play areas, among other projects. Our Technology team is working to increase our Wi-Fi capacity and install 1,415 wireless units.

In the over 3,000 total classrooms my team and I have visited so far this year, we can see the quality engagement, academic discourse and other outstanding displays of learning occurring in our classrooms. Although we are challenged every day with the realities that exist in our world, we have a tremendous team who is up to the challenge.

It is very important that each of us takes the time to work on ourselves and to strengthen the relationships with those in our lives. Healthy relationships are essential on all levels as that is how we support our students academically and socially. The time we take to ensure that we, individually, are in a good mental space is extremely important – self-care is critical to our own well-being.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent

“Be a wonderful role model because you will be the window through which many children will see their future.”

Thomas McKinnon

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# Employee Spotlight



**Michelle Debrosse**  
Pre-School Teacher

**William H. Taylor Elementary School**



Michelle Debrosse has been a teacher at Taylor School for 20 years. This past year she decided to start a new adventure as a preschool teacher. Mrs. Debrosse has seamlessly adapted to the younger students and is making a difference in their lives every day. Her students love her as evident by their hugs and high fives.

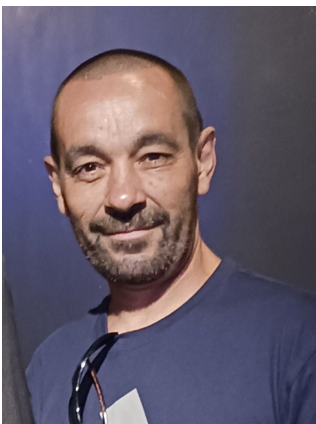
Mrs. Debrosse has also been known to cheer on students at the baseball field on several occasions! We are beyond lucky to have Michelle Debrosse as part of our Taylor team!

*Rafaela DeFigueiredo Spence, Principal, William H. Taylor School*



**Paulo Quiterio**  
Custodian

**Sgt. William H. Carney Academy**



Paulo Quiterio started working for NBPS September of 2021 at Gomes Elementary and started working at Carney Academy in May of 2022. He has been a great addition to the Carney community and works to maintain a clean and sanitized environment for everyone at Carney. He has also supported the redirection and restorative improvements for students at Carney. Thank you, Mr. Quiterio, for all that you add and do for Carney and for New Bedford!

*Daniel Mckoy, Principal, Sgt. William H. Carney Academy*

# Student Spotlight

## Jose Bonilla

Jose Bonilla joined the NBHS Wrestling Team during his first year to help him improve in football. He rejoined wrestling during his sophomore year and when the team went to the finals, he was hooked. Calling it “the best thing ever,” Jose trained hard in hopes of winning a place in the finals.

Determined to work harder than ever, Jose pushed himself to be the best wrestler he could be. During his junior year, the Whalers Wrestling Team once again went to the finals. Two days before the state wrestling competition,

Jose suffered a major injury and was unable to compete. In fact, he was unable to wrestle at all.

“Everyone thought I was done for – for my wrestling career,” he said. “I saw that as a challenge.” Being a hard worker, Jose was even more determined to return to wrestling. His goal was to make it to the finals and win.

His coaches encouraged him and worked with him to achieve this goal. Jose trained hard. He increased his training efforts often taking advantage of additional training opportunities at other gyms as well.

Finally, during his senior year, the time came for the state finals and the Whalers Wrestling Team once again made it to the finals. This time, Jose Bonilla won.

“When I won state’s, it was a great feeling,” he proudly stated.

At the March meeting of the New Bedford School Committee, Superintendent Thomas Anderson, with NBPS Athletic Director Tom Tarpey and NBHS Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Jamaal Hunt, presented Jose with an award plaque attesting to his title as “New Bedford High School – Wrestling Division 1 State Champion, 195 Weight Class.”



L-R: NBHS Athletic Director Tom Tarpey, Jose Bonilla, NBHS Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Jamaal Hunt, Superintendent Thomas Anderson.



Photo: Erin Clark/GLOBE STAFF

“For him to represent New Bedford Public Schools and continue to be successful academically and athletically is something we all should be proud of,” said Superintendent Anderson. “We know there is always something behind us that is motivating and keeping us going every day. That’s why we do the work that we do.”



# Food & Nutrition Services Update



## Welcome!

### Assistant Food Service Director

Starting late March 2023, the Food and Nutrition Services Department has welcomed a new Assistant Food Service Director!

Sarah Benoit, a culinary enthusiast, has filled the position! Sarah has a passion for students and the nutrition they receive daily. She has worked with youth over the past several years helping to develop and create menus that target a healthy balance of nutrition.

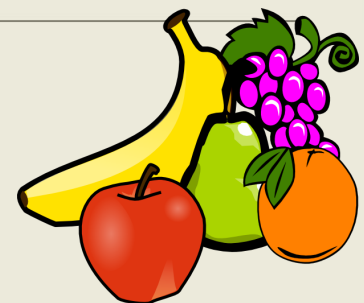
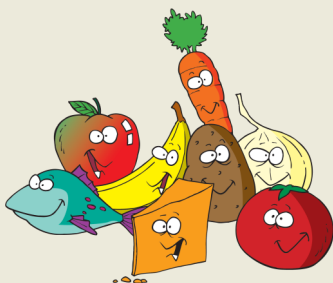
Current and future goals consist of providing well-balanced meals for all our students and creating a positive food-oriented atmosphere. Sarah is excited to be part of that process and contribute to that overall goal.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for our menus, please contact Sarah Benoit at [sarahbenoit@newbedfordpublicschools.org](mailto:sarahbenoit@newbedfordpublicschools.org).



**Sarah Benoit, Assistant Food Service Director**

Robert Shaheen, Director x14257  
[rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org)







# YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR SPRING STEP CHALLENGE!

**Only employees who subscribe to our BCBS health insurance can participate.**

The enrollment period for the Spring Step Challenge is from  
April 3, 2023 – April 16, 2023

Challenge will begin April 10, 2023, and will end on May 22, 2023, at 11:59pm.

**Step Challenge instructions are available on the district website. Click on this link**

**[BENEFITS](#)**



To successfully complete this challenge, you will need to log 294,000 steps within 6 weeks, an average of 7,000 steps a day, using a pedometer, Fitbit® or other device to keep track of steps. Steps must be entered into **ahealthyme**, either on the website, through the HealthyNow app, or through a connected Fitbit® device, to be counted toward the challenge goal.

**All employees and dependents that join the challenge will be entitled to the Fitbit Inspire 2 if they did not receive one on the previous challenge while supplies last!**

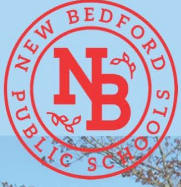
Please contact Marcia Tome in the Benefits Office at 508-997-4511, ext. 14355 or  
Email [mtome@newbedfordpublicschools.org](mailto:mtome@newbedfordpublicschools.org) to claim your Fitbit

Employees who complete the challenge will be eligible to  
receive a \$25.00 gift certificate.

**Gift certificates will be issued to employees only.**







# NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT FAIR



**SATURDAY, MAY 6 TH**  
**9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**  
**KEITH MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**225 HATHAWAY BLVD.**  
**NEW BEDFORD**  
**ON-SITE INTERVIEWS**

- **Speak with principals** and other school leaders from our 25 schools.
- Find out **what principals are looking for** in teacher candidates.
- Arrange to **tour our schools** and our city.
- **Vacancies include** but are not limited to:
  - Elementary Education
  - Special Education
  - English as a Second Language
  - Middle and High School positions (Math, Science, Special Education)



For more information, contact  
Kleidy Oliveira at  
508-997-4511 ext. 14351 OR  
[ksoliveira@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:ksoliveira@newbedfordschools.org)



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO VIEW & APPLY TO  
OPEN POSITIONS**

 @NBPublicSchools

 /NewBedfordPublicSchools  
[www.newbedfordschools.org](http://www.newbedfordschools.org)

 NB-Public-Schools



# New Bedford High School **OPEN HOUSE**

Wednesday, April 12 · 6:00 - 8:00 pm

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES  
MEET THE STAFF · EXPLORE THE CAMPUS · LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS

## Find an academic pathway to match your skills and interests!

NBHS offers students in grades 9-12 a wide range of experiences in challenging courses, hands-on learning, internships, and community service.

Academy of Honors

Advanced Placement

Career Vocational Technical Education

Early College

International Baccalaureate  
(authorization pending)

NEW

Magnet Academy of Civic Leadership & World Studies

NEW

National Academy Foundation

Visual and Performing Arts

➔ [NBHS.newbedfordschools.org/discover](https://NBHS.newbedfordschools.org/discover)



Español  
Kabuverdianu  
K'iché  
Kreyòl Ayisyen  
Português





# Community Corner



**Our vision is for a clean and healthy environment for the community, now and for generations to come**

In the last 16 years, over **7800** volunteers from all segments of the community have participated in neighborhood cleanups. These dedicated volunteers performed close to **26,000** hours of community service and cleaned over **87** tons of trash from many miles of New Bedford neighborhood streets.

For more information and to register for upcoming cleanup dates, please visit [https:// operationcleansweep.net/](https://operationcleansweep.net/)

## 2023 Cleanup Schedule

9am-12pm except for Palmers Island

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Earth Day Cleanup – Acushnet Ave.  
Neighborhoods – HQ behind Cotali Mar

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** – South End – HQ at Orpheum Theatre,  
1000 Water St.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** – West End – HQ at Southcoast Hospital  
Group, 101 Page St. Parking Lot

**July 15<sup>th</sup>** – Downtown – HQ at Servpro, 1476 Pur-  
chase St.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>** – Palmer Island – HQ located at the  
bottom of Gifford St. 2pm-5:30pm



## **OCS Encourages Everyone to Get Involved!**

Organized Cleanups: OCS encourages everyone to get involved. Leading by example, we hope to teach behaviors that will result in helping to create a cleaner, safer environment for generations. Operation Clean Sweep organizes a series of cleanups throughout the city from April – September. It is only possible with the help of hundreds of civic minded volunteers and the support of City Services and neighborhood businesses.

***\*NBPS District Goal #4 – “Increase awareness of staff to the benefits, partnerships, and opportunities to become a bigger part of the greater New Bedford Community.”***



**Southern  
New Hampshire  
University**

**You can earn a college degree from Southern New Hampshire University  
faster, for less money, with Duet.**



### **Low-Cost & Accelerated**

The most affordable way to earn your degree in New England. Complete projects online to earn credits, anytime 24/7. The more projects you do, the faster you graduate, and the less you pay. The average time to earn a Bachelor's degree is less than three years. Financial aid applies. Past college credits are evaluated for credit.



### **Fits in Any Schedule**

This is a college experience designed for busy full-time working adults. SNHU's curriculum is online, project-based, and accommodates ever-changing schedules. Do schoolwork on your time.



### **Student-Centered Supports and Services**

Duet offers on-demand 1:1 coaching to help you get your degree done quickly and save money. We also offer computer access, in-person and virtual support, and other amenities at our modern study space in downtown Boston & Manchester, NH.



### **Advance Your Career**

Earn a degree designed for the workplace that is highly valued by employers. Associate and Bachelor's degrees are offered in Business, Communications, and Healthcare Management. Learn new skills that directly apply to in-demand jobs.

**Enrolling now for May and June!  
Reach out today to learn more.**

**Call, Text, or Email**

**Eric at Duet**

**617-712-9945**

**elopez@duet.org**

**Fill out Duet's Get in Touch  
form and we will contact you:**

**<https://duet.force.com/eric>**

**Click here to Register for  
our Virtual Info Session  
Every Wednesday 6-7pm**



Our confidential resource and referrals are available at no cost to you. Services with referral sources are optional and fees may exist.



## BALANCE BETTER WITH WORK/LIFE RESOURCES

Receive personalized support for a wide range of caregiving, life management and family needs.

### GET HELP WITH:

- Childcare
- Eldercare
- Housing
- Transportation
- Adoption
- Education
- Pet Care
- Household Errands

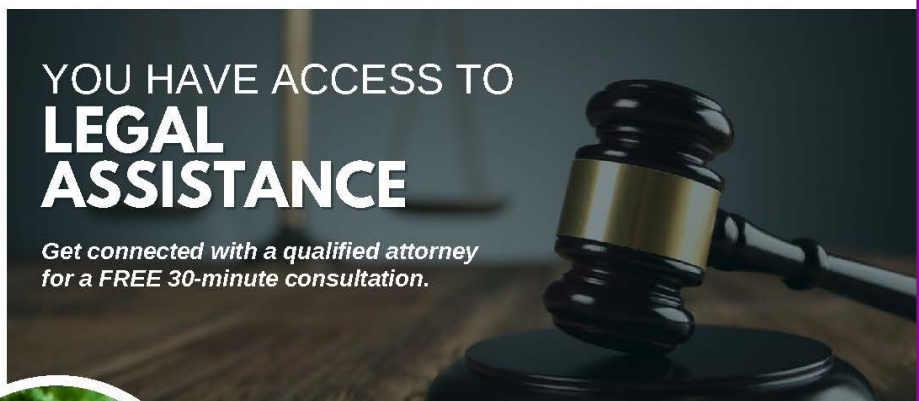


### EVERYDAY ASSISTANCE:

A hard-working parent reached out to the program looking for alternative infant care since their provider was closed due to COVID-19. The team found 5 childcare providers in her area that were open and provided detailed information including pricing, fees, hours, and availability. The parent responded, "This program is a lifesaver!"

ACCESS VIA: [allonehealth.com](http://allonehealth.com)  
 1-800-451-1834

Our confidential resource and referrals are available at no cost to you. Services with referral sources are optional and fees may exist.



## YOU HAVE ACCESS TO LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Get connected with a qualified attorney for a FREE 30-minute consultation.

### GET HELP WITH:

- Bankruptcy
- Divorce
- Custody
- Estate Planning
- Wills
- Real Estate
- Adoption
- Eldercare



### EVERYDAY ASSISTANCE:

Dominick called in looking for help with finding an attorney. He had hired a company to repair his roof and already signed a contract. Suddenly the company stopped responding and never came back to finish the job. The Assistance Program was able to locate an attorney within 5 miles and offer a discount to use this attorney's services.

ACCESS VIA: [allonehealth.com](http://allonehealth.com)  
 1-800-451-1834



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**GET HELP WITH:**

- Family Conflict
- Couples/Relationships
- Substance Abuse
- Work/Life Balance
- Stress
- Depression/Anxiety
- Grief
- Parenting

## YOU HAVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Short-term counseling by licensed, Master's-level counselors via phone, mobile app, chat, and video. Available to you and your household members 24/7.



**EVERYDAY ASSISTANCE:**

Overwhelmed and scared about her teen's active substance misuse, Gina called in looking for assistance. She received an appointment with a counselor, and during their sessions, she learned parenting strategies and boundary-setting to help manage the situation. Gina also received information about local treatment programs for her son and family support groups.

**ACCESS VIA:** [allonehealthapp.com](http://allonehealthapp.com)  
**1-800-451-1834**

Our confidential resource and referrals are available at no cost to you. Services with referral sources are optional and fees may exist.

**GET HELP WITH:**

- Life Transitions
- Communication Skills
- Stress & Time Management
- Work/Life Balance
- Managing Multiple Projects
- Goal Setting/Action Steps
- Improving Relationships
- Living a More Purposeful Life

## LEVEL UP WITH LIFE COACHING

Reach your personal and professional goals with free coaching sessions.



**EVERYDAY ASSISTANCE:**

Roberta was studying to retake a professional exam that she needed to pass and was looking for help with time management. Our coach helped her develop a study schedule that worked with her already hectic work schedule and kept her accountable to stay on top of it. She e-mailed her coach a few months later to report she passed her exam!

**ACCESS VIA:** [allonehealthapp.com](http://allonehealthapp.com)  
**1-800-451-1834**

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## YOU HAVE ACCESS TO **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

*Financial Assistance connects individuals with certified financial planners, public accountants, and credit counselors to help with personal financial challenges.*



### GET HELP WITH:

-  Bankruptcy
-  Home Buying
-  Debt
-  Identity Theft
-  Retirement Planning
-  College Planning
-  Budget Coaching
-  Taxes



### EVERYDAY ASSISTANCE:

Maggie reached out feeling overwhelmed and anxious after receiving a letter from an attorney regarding an old debt that was not paid. The letter also specified that her wages were to be garnished. After utilizing financial consultation services through the assistance program, Maggie learned, in this instance, it was illegal to garnish her wages, and that the letter was a scam.

**ACCESS VIA:**



**allonehealthep.com**



**1-800-451-1834**

Our confidential resource and referrals are available at no cost to you. Services with referral sources are optional and fees may exist.

## YOU HAVE A **PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

*Let us help with the everyday tasks on your "to-do" list!*



### GET HELP WITH:

-  Travel
-  Sports and Recreation
-  Household Errands
-  Home Food Delivery
-  Professional Services
-  Entertainment Planning
-  Housing and Real Estate
-  Cleaning Services



### EVERYDAY ASSISTANCE:

During COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, Rebecca needed assistance with grocery delivery, especially with finding out-of-stock items like flour, active yeast, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer. The Personal Assistants Team reached out to all grocery stores within 25 miles to confirm availability of items, and provided Rebecca with information about delivery options.

**ACCESS VIA:**



**allonehealthep.com**



**1-800-451-1834**



**NORMANDIN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

# Annie JR.



**Book By: Thomas Meehan    Music By: Charles Strouse    Lyrics By: Martin Charnin**

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"® By Permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

**APRIL 13TH & APRIL 14TH**

**7PM**

**NORMANDIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**\$**  
**Pay What You Can  
Admission**

**Directed By:  
Olivia Marques**

**Choreographed By:  
Elizabeth Fournier**

**Music Director: Stefanie LaFontaine**

**Sound and Lighting Supervisors:  
Shea Lowney  
& Teresa L'Heureux**

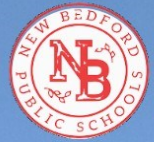
Annie JR. is presented through special arrangement with  
and all authorized materials are supplied by  
Music Theatre International, New York, NY  
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com





**WRAPAROUND SERVICES**  
Family Engagement ≠ Student Success

# NBPS Family Engagement Centers



## Invites you!

# SUMMER CAMP FAIR

## Event Series



**HAYDEN  
MCFADDEN  
ELEMENTARY**

March 16th  
4pm to 6pm



**NORMANDIN  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

April 11th  
4:30pm to 6:30pm



**KEITH MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**

April 12th  
4:30pm to 6:30 pm



**JACOBS  
ELEMENTARY**

April 25th  
5pm to 7pm







**LEARN ABOUT ALL THE FUN NEW BEDFORD HAS  
TO OFFER FOR SUMMER 2023! SNACKS PROVIDED!**





## NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar

# April 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 GOMES AUTISM AWARENESS DAY - MAKE SLIME WITH US! 4PM-6PM	4 NBHS- DONATE TO OUR PROM DRESS DRIVE THIS MONTH!	5	6	7 HAPPY EASTER WEEKEND!
10 JACOBS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 5PM-7PM	11 NORMANDIN-SUMMER CAMP FAIR 4:30PM-6:30PM	12 KEITH- SUMMER CAMP & JOB FAIR 4PM-6PM	13 HAYMAC PACE CAFE 9AM-10AM "REGISTRATION REQUIRED" FISS GRADUATION KEITH MIDDLE SCHOOL 5PM-7PM	14
17 Spring Break Begins!	18 CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE FUN OPPORTUNITIES THIS SPRING!	19 	20 	21
24 Wraparound Department- 455 County Street, New Bedford, MA	25 JACOBS- SUMMER CAMP RESOURCE FAIR 5PM-7PM 5TH GRADE FAMILIES- MEET OUR ROOSEVELT STAFF!	26 HAYMAC- BINGO NIGHT WITH THE WOMEN'S CENTER! 4:30PM-6:30PM	27 HAYMAC PACE CAFE 9AM-10AM "REGISTRATION REQUIRED" 5TH GRADE FAMILIES- MEET OUR NORMANDIN STAFF! 4PM-5PM	28
		(508) 997-4511 ext. 14154		

WRAPAROUND SERVICES  
Family Engagement • Student Success

## NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar

# April 2023

### READING CLUBS

**Gomes School- Monday, April 24th 3pm-4pm**

### SNAP & HOUSING

Keith Middle School & NBHS- Tuesdays 1:30pm-4pm  
Normandin Middle School- Tuesdays 8am-10am  
Roosevelt Middle School- Thursdays 1:30pm-4pm  
Hayden McFadden - Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm  
Gomes School- Thursdays 8am-10am  
Jacobs- Thursdays 10:30am-12:30pm

### CALL FOR PROM DRESSES AT NBHS!

Have a prom outfit you are not using? Donate it to our NBHS Prom Dress Drive! We will be accepting donations in our Family Engagement Center till April 18th!

### COMPUTER CLASSES

NBHS- April 6th & April 27th 10am-12pm  
Normandin Middle-Every Tuesday 12-1pm  
Roosevelt Middle- April 11th & April 25th 10am-12pm  
Hayden McFadden - April 10th & April 24th 2pm-3pm  
Gomes School- April 12th \*8:00am-9:00am/\*12:00pm-1:00pm/ 2:00pm-3:00pm

### WOMEN'S CENTER OPEN HOURS

Hayden McFadden - April 6th 9am-10am  
Gomes School- April 25th 1pm-2pm ON CALL  
Jacobs- April 4th 2:30pm-3:30pm

### NBHS- April 13th 10:30am-11:30am Keith Middle School- April 13th 9am-10am Normandin Middle School- April 6th & April 27th 10:30am-11:30am Roosevelt Middle School- April 4th 1pm-2pm

Wraparound Department- 455 County Street, New Bedford, MA (508) 997-4511 ext. 14154

WRAPAROUND SERVICES  
Family Engagement • Student Success

**Our confidential resource and referrals are available at no cost to you. Services with referral sources are optional and fees may exist.**

**GET HELP WITH:**

-  Insurance Navigation
-  Doctor Referrals
-  Health Care Transportation
-  Discharge Planning
-  Care Transition
-  Durable Medical Equipment
-  Geriatric Care
-  Medical Appointment Preparation



## YOU HAVE ACCESS TO MEDICAL ADVOCACY

Medical advocates help you interpret medical information related to claims, coverage, and medical diagnosis.



**EVERYDAY ASSISTANCE:**

Tara needed a reliable, medically trained babysitter to help take care of her young son who has chronic asthma. She and her husband had tried every avenue they could think of to get a decent sitter but kept coming up blank. The Assistance Program was able to provide a list of professional babysitters, all medically trained, and well suited to her son's needs. Tara now has time back in her day, and peace of mind that her son is well cared for.

**ACCESS VIA:**



**allonehealthcap.com**



**1-800-451-1834**