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From the Buffalo Business First:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2022/01/18/sasi-ceo-anthony-annunziato.html>

## Sasi CEO to retire in May, plus two other leadership transitions

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A leadership search is underway for one of the region's largest nonprofit service providers for individuals with disabilities.

Anthony Annunziato will retire from Sasi in May after 40-plus years with the agency, including the last 10 as president and CEO.

The \$47 million agency has a workforce of about 800 who provide services to 2,000 people with developmental disabilities at more than 50 locations in Erie, Cattaraugus and Wyoming counties.

Annunziato led a 2016 merger between the former Suburban Adult Services Inc. and the Claddagh Commission, which led to the Sasi name. Sasi, based in Elma, ranked 16th among the region's largest



COURTESY: SASI INC.

Anthony Annunziato, outgoing CEO at Sasi Inc.

nonprofits on Business First's 2021 Million Dollar Nonprofits report.

He said steering the agency through the pandemic was the greatest challenge of his career.

"It's time," Annunziato said. "I have loved guiding Sasi through many challenges and successes. I have cared deeply about the entire staff and all of the individuals we serve. My greatest joy is watching them succeed. But it is time for me to step back. It is time for someone new to take over."

In addition to housing, care coordination and day programs, Sasi offers specialty programs that include therapeutic horseback riding, a dance studio and a personal training program for individuals with special needs. Employment opportunities come from affiliations with the Original Kazoo Co. and SAGE Janitorial Services.

In other nonprofit leadership news:

- The **Parent Network of WNY** has begun a search to replace Executive Director [Susan Barlow](#), who plans to retire by July 1. Barlow, who joined the agency in 2002, has spent 40 years in human services, including 20 years with People Inc. Founded in 1991, the Parent Network has a budget of just over \$1 million and offers training and support for parents.

Barlow said she doesn't expect to sit still for long and has already heard from a few organizations. "Whatever I do, it's going to be fun. It's going to be those projects that I always wanted to do but never could."

- The **Bairs Foundation** has named [Erin Waas](#) executive director. She comes to the organization after eight years in donor communications with the [University at Buffalo](#) and Harvard University, plus eight years in fundraising consulting work with Development Guild DDI outside of Boston. With total assets of about \$1 million, the foundation provides financial assistance to cover living expenses for individuals going through litigation or trial. She takes over for Brooke Kibrick, who spent a year in the position.



- Kate Glaser has left her communications post with **Make-A-Wish Western New York** to pursue nonprofit incorporation for Hope Rises, her good news/fundraising initiative and to launch a consulting business to support other organizations. Hope Rises works to ignite hope and inspiration worldwide through stories of love and goodwill.

**Tracey Drury**

Reporter

*Buffalo Business First*

