# WVU Speech, Language, Hearing Clinic

**WV West Virginia University®**

## GNO: Girls Night Out Program
*Empowering females with autism and related disabilities*

**What is GNO?** Girls Night Out (GNO) is a social skills and self-care program for girls with autism and related developmental disabilities. This program incorporates evidence-based strategies to teach and practice social and self-care skills within natural community settings. GNO also includes girls without disabilities as trained peer volunteers who help create social opportunities and model the use of skills.

**The GNO curriculum targets:**
- Relating to others
- Feeling confident and competent in social skills and taking care of yourself
- Individualized supports

The sessions will be under the supervision of Assistant Professor, Molly Abitbol, M.S., CCC-SLP. Mrs. Abitbol completed her master's degree through Nova Southeastern University. She has experience in the evaluation and treatment of individuals with ASD and related disabilities.

**Participating in GNO provided opportunities to:**
- Meet new people
- Engage in meaningful connections
- Improve conversational skills
- Celebrate individuality
- GNO happens in social settings within the community, NOT in a clinic
- GNO is based on research about girls with and without autism and their families

**Who can participate?**
- Girls with ASD aged 14 - 18 years of age (participants)
- Girls without ASD aged 14 - 18 years of age (volunteers)

**When does this program take place?**
- Meet once a week (Fridays, 5:30-7:00 pm beginning June 20 until July 25)
- Locations for activities will take place in the greater Morgantown area.

**What is the cost to you?**
- $300.00 for participants (scholarship assistance for those who qualify)
- Free for volunteers

**For more information, contact Melissa Dew: melissa.mitchell@hsc.wvu.edu, phone: 304-293-6817**