

VOL. 8 ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2024

THE BUZZ

Official Newsletter of Oswego Industries and
the Arc of Oswego County

2024-2025 Arc Membership Drive Underway

FULTON – As March unfolds, the Arc of Oswego County proudly launches its annual Membership Drive, calling on the community to support individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). With a history of over 70 years, the Arc of Oswego County has been at the forefront of empowering people with disabilities and fostering inclusion within the community.

Membership in the Arc of Oswego County is a powerful way for individuals to contribute to a cause that makes a tangible impact on the lives of those with I/DD. By becoming a member, individuals can actively participate as volunteers for various programs and committees, contribute their energy to fundraising initiatives, and help raise public awareness about the challenges faced by those with disabilities.

In a landscape where rising costs pose challenges to sustaining impactful programs, community support plays a pivotal role in enhancing the offerings of the Arc of Oswego County. Your membership fuels essential programs and activities and contributes to the organization's mission of promoting individual growth, productivity, and independence.

Your membership matters, and for just \$10, individuals can become a part of the Arc of Oswego County community. Every day, the organization strives to make a difference in the lives of those with I/DD, and your support is instrumental in this ongoing journey.

To become a member and make a meaningful impact, please scan the QR Code.



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THE BUZZ

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2024 Publication Schedule

April 3rd, 2024
July 3rd, 2024
October 2nd, 2024
December 31,2024

OSWEGO INDUSTRIES INVESTS IN TECHNOLOGY

FULTON – Oswego Industries is thrilled to announce its investment in Smart Boards and Virtual Reality systems to enhance the educational experiences of supported individuals in its programs.

This investment highlights Oswego Industries' commitment to innovative and tailored education. Smart Boards introduce a new level of interactive learning, fostering engagement and support throughout the educational journey. These platforms facilitate dynamic classroom interactions, promoting active participation and effective knowledge absorption.

Additionally, Oswego Industries pioneers career exploration through Virtual Reality technology. With Virtual Reality for Career Exploration, individuals embark on immersive journeys into various professions, gaining invaluable insights to guide their career paths.

Through the allocation of proceeds from the 2023 golf tournament, Oswego Industries reaffirms its dedication to the personal and professional development of supported individuals. These transformative technologies create a nurturing environment where individuals can thrive, unlocking their full potential with confidence.



Thank You Sponsors

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Barkbox, The REV Theatre, The Spot On Lodge, Bulfinch Brew Pub, Riverwalk Bagel, Riverwalk Coffee Roasters, Wegman's F & F Bargains, Super DIRT Week, Kathy's Cakes, Speedway Press, Texas Roadhouse

*As of April 1, 2024

Please join us **Saturday, April 13**

for  **OSWEGO**
INDUSTRIES
Casino Night

The evening will feature craps, roulette, blackjack, poker, Live Music from Joe Cortini's Jazz Mafia, fantastic food and drinks, and FUN as we raise money to support the program and services offered by Oswego Industries and the Arc of Oswego County.

Your Ticket is Your Sponsorship!





The High Roller: \$135
Admission for two (2)

The Gambler: \$85
Admission for one (1)

Admission includes:

- o \$1,000 in chips per person
- o Hand passed heavy hors d'oeuvres, cheese, and crudité table
- o Two (2) drink tickets (beer, wine, or an event signature cocktail/mocktail) per person

Event Info:

-  Saturday, April 13, 2024
-  6:00 pm-11:00 pm (5:30 pm - Registration)
-  Venue: River Vista Event Center, Fulton
-  Suggested Attire: Cocktail

Tickets are selling fast! To purchase your tickets, **at special employee pricing**, please scan the QR Code



Our Partners



River Vista
event center



We MATTER!

SYRACUSE--A "We Matter" rally, organized by the Arc of Onondaga and Access CNY and joined by representatives from Oswego Industries, the Arc of Oswego County, the Arc of Madison Cortland, and the Arc of Oneida-Lewis, brought together nearly 300 people at the state fairgrounds. The event's primary goal was to advocate for increased funding in the state budget to support staff and services for individuals with disabilities.

The participants gathered to call on state lawmakers and then-Governor Kathy Hochul to allocate just over \$250 million in the budget. This funding would have covered a 3.2 percent cost-of-living adjustment, a \$4,000 wage retention, and enhancement for direct support professionals. These professionals play a crucial role in assisting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The rally provided a platform for current and former direct support professionals, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, Assemblyman Al Stirpe (D-Cicero), Julie Fleck representing Senator John Mannion (D-District 50), Matt Jones representing Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter (D-Syracuse), and Nodesia Hernandez representing Senator Rachel May's office (D-District 48) addressed the attendees.

The involvement of these representatives and officials reflected the collaborative effort to highlight the importance of increased financial support for the disability services sector. The rally served as a powerful initiative to raise awareness about the needs of this community and to urge policymakers to prioritize funding that ensured the well-being of individuals with disabilities and the professionals who supported them.



Q1 GRANTS AND GIFTS



\$500

In Memory of Jackie Comerford

Facebook fundraiser organized by
Mary Williams Mann \$1,327

- Joyce Ario-Schultz
- Mary Barsema
- Kate Buckley
- Patrick Byrne
- Elaine Campbell
- Kim Kowalski-Prenatt
- Kelley Comerford-Greene
- Jenny Deeb-Christiano
- Amy Dodd-Enis
- Lori Koziowski-Scime
- Maureen McMullen-O'Connor
- Loron Oster
- Jeff Reddout
- Jackie Rieg
- Meghan Schneible
- Kathy Shady
- Katie Stam
- Frank Tomaka
- Mona Tuchfield
- Nancy Wahl
- Ann Williams-Comerford
- Carolyn Williams
- Jim Williams
- Mary Williams-Mann

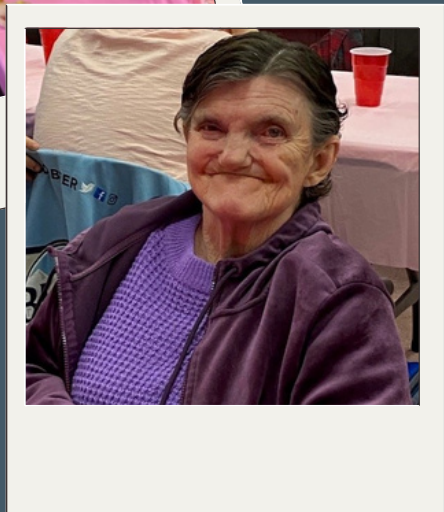
Total Donations received In Memory of
Jackie Comerford-\$4,076

Continued on page 6 see Gifts

Key: ^Employee ^^Retired Employee *Board Member



Winter/Valentines Day Dance



Gifts from page 5

In Memory of Lisa Williams

- Lee Sullivan
- Lisa Guernsey

Facebook Fundraiser .

Organized by Carolyn Maloney, \$243

- Lynne Bogart
- Pam Bradshaw-Drumm
- David Colvin
- Anne Judge
- Vicki Kenner
- Carolyn Maloney

Oswego Industries General Fund

- Julie Matthews

Winter/Valentines Day Dance

In late February the Arc of Oswego County and Oswego Industries held its first dance in four years!

A great time was had by all in attendance. Special thanks to Millenium Music Mobile DJ's for providing the Music.

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

5 Years

Michelle Petrie-Seniors
Christina Bort-LIFE

10 Years

Dustin Reitz-Federal Building

15 years

Earl Rice-Operations Associate

20 Years

Priscilla Lavere-Textiles



*Pictured L to R : Michelle Petrie,
Earl Rice and Priscilla Lavere*

WE REMEMBER



Lisa Williams
Employment Services
Assistant Program Manager

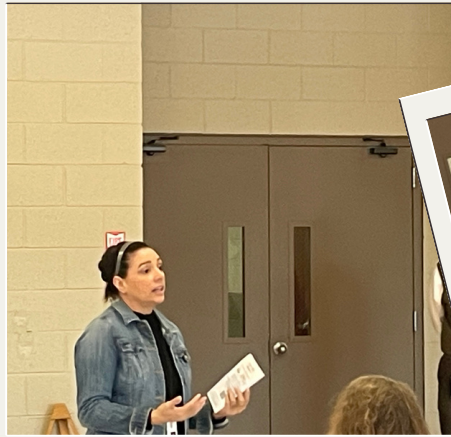
Winter/Valentines Day Dance



Scenes from a Town Hall



Allen Connely
President & CEO



Lee Sullivan
Services Director



Lisa Guernsey
Business Operation Director

BRIGHAM YOUNG

About Oswego Industries Inc.

Our mission is to be a partner in the development of comprehensive community services designed to improve the quality of life for all people by providing the necessary support programs to enable individuals to grow with dignity and achieve their highest level of independence and self-fulfillment.



About Arc of Oswego County

The mission of Arc of Oswego County is to be the premier provider of services to persons with developmental disabilities. Our commitment, first and foremost, is to individuals and their families, to provide choices, information, education and supports that will allow informed decisions and opportunities for growth, personal development and fulfillment.

