

THE BUZZ

Official Newsletter of Oswego Industries and
the Arc of Oswego County



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The Buzz is published four times annually
by Oswego Industries Inc. and Arc of
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Oswego Industries, Inc's, mission is to be a leader
in the field of developmental disabilities,
committed to meeting the needs of individual
growth, productivity, and independence through
education, advocacy, and increased community
acceptance and participation.

Arc of Oswego County's mission is to help
people with disabilities live rich, fulfilling
lives of their own choosing.

On the cover: Oswego Industries, Inc

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: A CALL TO ACTION

For over 50 years, Oswego Industries has
been a lifeline for individuals with
developmental disabilities, providing
critical programs that foster independence,
productivity, and personal growth.
However, as government funding tightens,
the future of these essential services is at
risk. To bridge this gap, Oswego Industries
has launched The 1968 Fund, with a goal of
raising \$2,500 this year to sustain its life-
changing programs.

Donations to The 1968 Fund will help
purchase adaptive equipment like lift
chairs, educational tools for Smart Boards,
and tablets for staff to improve service
delivery. Additionally, funds will support
recreational outings, offering participants
enriching experiences that enhance their
well-being.

Assistive technologies, such as Text-to-Talk
apps, are also a key focus, providing
individuals with speech impairments the
ability to communicate and engage more
fully in their communities. These tools
break down barriers, promoting inclusion
and improving quality of life.

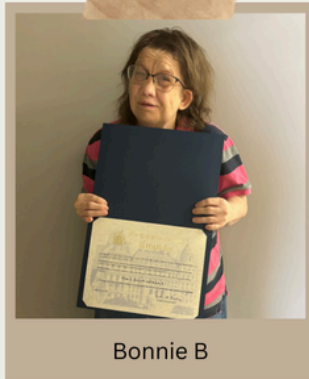
Oswego Industries relies on community
support to continue offering these vital
services. Every contribution, whether a
one-time donation or a recurring gift, will
directly impact the lives of individuals with
disabilities, empowering them to lead
independent, fulfilling lives.

As the year comes to a close, we invite you
to join us in supporting The 1968 Fund and
help secure the future of these essential
programs. Together, we can make a lasting
difference.

To make a donation to our
Year End Appeal please see
page 8, or Scan the QR Code



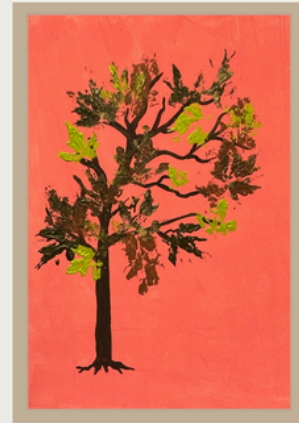
OSWEGO INDUSTRIES ARTISTS HONORED AT “LOCAL LANDSCAPES AND LANDMARKS” ART EXHIBIT



Bonnie B



Kevin W., & Brian A



Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay's
Fifth annual “Local Landscapes and
Landmarks” Art Exhibit



Assembly Minority Leader
Will Barclay and Oswego
Industries, Inc.'s Jeff Weigand

Oswego, NY — Oswego Industries, Inc. and The Arc of Oswego County proudly celebrate the artistic achievements of Bonnie B., Kevin W., and Brian A., whose painting, First Day of Autumn, was featured in the fifth annual Local Landscapes and Landmarks Art Exhibit. The exhibit, hosted by Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay in partnership with the Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, opened on October 24 at The Art Scene at CNY Arts Center.

The painting remained on display at the CNY Community Arts Center in Fulton through November 8 and will later be showcased in the New York State Capitol from November 2024 to April 2025. Assemblyman Barclay presented a Citation recognizing the artists and praised their work. “I was once again incredibly impressed by the submissions from the participants,” said Barclay. “Their exceptional skills in capturing the essence of Central New York are truly inspiring. Each piece of artwork tells a story, highlighting not only the stunning landscapes but also the heart and soul of our community.”

Oswego Industries is proud to support these artists and their accomplishments as part of its mission to empower individuals with disabilities through creativity, inclusion, and meaningful opportunities.

PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY

From October 4th - 6th, Respite took a group of Individuals on a weekend camping trip to the Frost Valley YMCA, in Claryville, NY.

The weekend included a Fall Festival put on by the Frost Valley YMCA. The festival included making apple cider, boating, and other crafts.

This outing was made possible by a grant from NYSARC Trust Services.

Pictured: Tyler L., DSP Emily S., Christina P., and Kevin B.



Sarah F., Christina P., Kim P., Tom Sc., Kevin B., David B., Joe B., Justin J., Barb C., Jimmy A., and Cristina C. participated in a L.I.F.E Day Habilitation excursion to the CNY Event Ranch, where they had the opportunity to interact with and groom horses. Accompanying them were Services Manager Nicole A., Assistant Services Manager Amy S., and DSPs Autumn B. and Danielle T.

This outing was made possible by a grant from NYSARC Trust Services

Oswego County Youth Bureau, on Saturday, October 26, held its 5th Annual Trunk or Treat at Oswego Speedway. Over 1,300 kids came through the gates at the Speedway!

Arc of Oswego County DSP Troie S., and Patrick D., took Kevin W., Christina P., Ron L., Josh R., Kyle A., and Anthony BR. as part of a Respite outing.

This outing was made possible by a grant from NYSARC Trust Services.



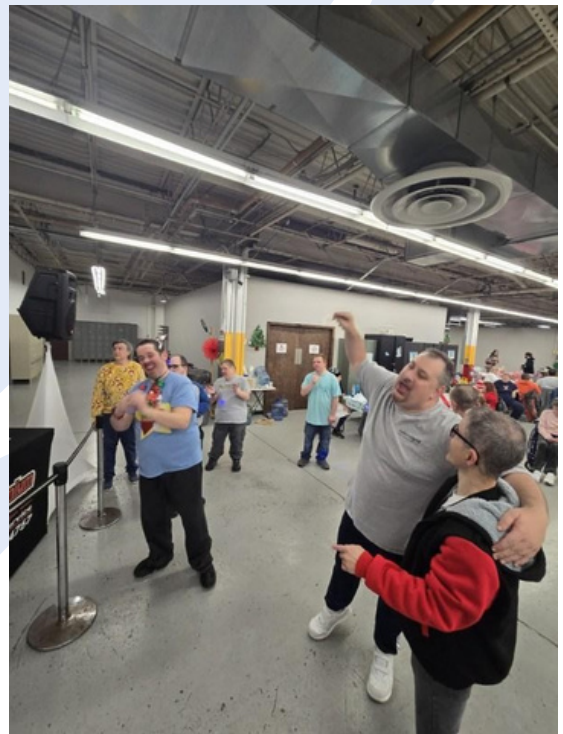
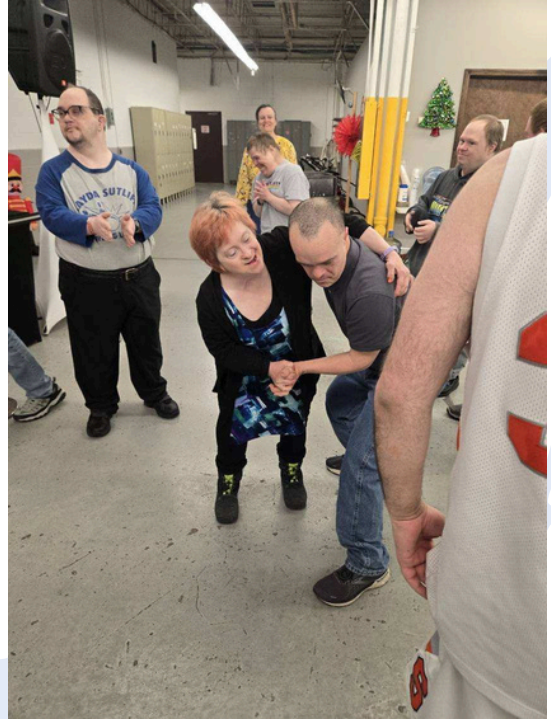
DANCES MAKE A RETURN TO OSWEGO INDUSTRIES AND ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY!

After a four-year hiatus, dances for program participants returned to Oswego Industries, Inc. and the Arc of Oswego County, creating unforgettable moments of fun and community.

The year kicked off with the first dance on February 23 in the Café at Oswego Industries, followed by another dance on April 19. Summer festivities continued with the Respite Summer Dance on August 16, bringing smiles and celebration to all.

The final dance of 2024 was held on December 6, the dance moved to the Program Floor to accommodate the amount of individuals in attendance, including many individuals from other agencies in Oswego County. The music provided by DJ Ron from Millennium Music, the event was the perfect way to end the year on a high note.

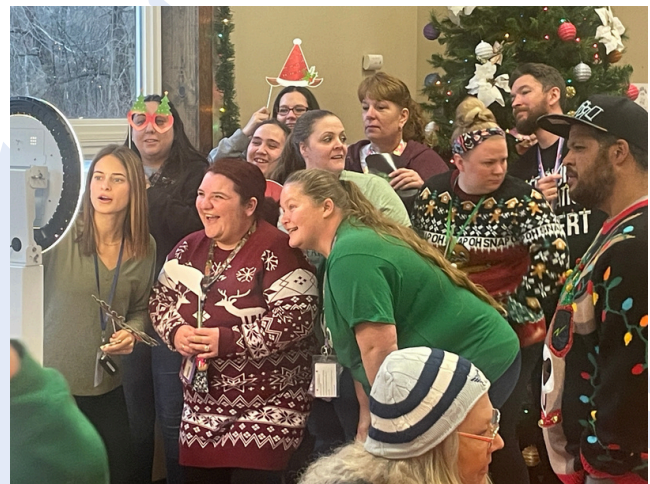
Plans are already underway for more dances in 2025, with the first dance planned for February, ensuring this popular activity continues to bring joy and inclusion to the community!



ARC OF OSWEGO/OSWEGO INDUSTRIES, INC EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY PARTY 2024

The Employee Holiday Party was a huge success! From the decorations, delicious food, the gift giveaway, the 50/50 raffle, the ugly sweater contest and the Photo Booth, it was a celebration to remember. Everyone had such a great time connecting, laughing, and enjoying the holiday spirit together.

A big thank-you goes to the Fun Committee—Amanda Gregory, AlecsZandre Livingston, Allyson Froio, Autumn Benavidez, Elissa Miner, Jesica Stacks, Leah Green, Niviana Bardin, Patrick Davern, Sara Casey, Vanessa Thibault, and Kendrick Whelsky—for making it all happen. Your creativity, hard work, and attention to detail truly made the event special. We appreciate everything you did to bring the party to life!



HOLIDAY BRUNCH FOR SUPPORTED INDIVIDUALS

In Mid December, our program staff cooked a holiday brunch for our individuals supported.



SANTA FOR SENIORS

Kim Briest and Missy Peel from the Oswego County Office for the Aging, through a program called Santa for Seniors, delivered Christmas gifts to individuals enrolled in the Arc of Oswego County Seniors Program.

Santa for Seniors is designed to support older adults with limited resources or those who may be alone during the holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who donated to this program—your generosity truly brightened the holiday season for our participants!



OSWEGO INDUSTRIES, INC. & ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY EMPLOYEE DONATE TO THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY

Oswego, NY — Employees of Oswego Industries, Inc. and Arc of Oswego County have demonstrated their commitment to the community by donating nearly 340 pounds of non-perishable food and hygiene items to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. This contribution will directly benefit individuals and families in need throughout Oswego County, particularly during the holiday season.

The collection effort was a collaborative initiative among employees, who generously provided items such as canned goods, boxed meals, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. This act of giving reflects the organizations' shared mission of empowering individuals with disabilities while promoting a culture of service and compassion.

The Catholic Charities Food Pantry plays a vital role in supporting local families, offering critical resources to ensure access to food and essential items. Representatives from Catholic Charities expressed heartfelt gratitude for the donation, highlighting the positive impact it will have on the community during a time of increased need.

Oswego Industries, Inc. and Arc of Oswego County continue to champion initiatives that strengthen the community and foster inclusivity through acts of kindness and dedication to service.



Pictured: AlecsZandre Livingston, Oswego Industries, Inc. Employment Services Associate and Ken Dennison, Catholic Charities Building and Safety Manager



GRANTS & GIFTS

KeyBank Foundation



\$10,000 to support Employment Services Virtual Reality for Career Exploration

Pictured: **Amy Bidwell**, Community Sales Manager; **Ron Klein** Market Retail Leader; **Tamika D. Otis**, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility & Community Relations Officer Key Bank Capital Region and CNY; **Jeff Weigand**, Business Relations Liaison Oswego Industries, Inc; **Stephen D. Fournier**, Key Bank, Market President I Central NY & Regional Retail Leader I Upstate NY



\$550 to support Arc of Oswego's Respite Program



\$500 to kick off Oswego Industries Year End Campaign



\$458.88 Fundraising Night November 18th



\$100 General Donation

ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY MEMBERSHIP

Individual

Kay Pullen

Supporter

Jerry Collins

OSWEGO INDUSTRIES INDIVIDUAL

Mr & Mrs Doug Bray

Mr. Allen Connely

MAKE YOUR RECURRING DONATION TODAY!

Government funding isn't enough to achieve our goals. That's why your support is critical. We strive to never turn people away and always want to strengthen our program offerings.



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Giving Circles:

- 1968 Fund** (\$19.68/mo.) **Friend of Oi** (\$25/mo.) **Supporter of Oi** (\$50/mo.)
 Advocate of Oi (\$100/mo.) **Benefactor of Oi** (\$500/mo.) **Other** _____

*Based on monthly recurring gifts. Other frequencies are welcomed. Monthly gifts greater than \$500 will become members of the Elizabeth "Betty" Vaught Circle

Please select your payment option:

- Enclosed is a check/money order made payable to: Oswego Industries Inc.
 Please charge my: Master Card VISA Discover AmEx

Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVV _____
Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Oswego Industries Inc. is a section 501(c)3 not-for-profit charitable organization and your gift is tax-deductible in the United States to the full extent of the law. EIN # 16-2197163

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.

