

The Buzz

Fall 2023

Volume 7 Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

Oswego Industries and the Arc of Oswego Hosts the Community

Fulton— On Thursday, September 28th, Oswego Industries opened our doors to family, friends, and the community. There were well over 100 people in attendance. Among those in attendance were Dan Martini, representing Congresswoman Claudia Tenney, Oswego County Legislator, representing parts of Fulton, Granby, and Volney; Frank Castiglia, Fulton Mayoral Candidate Marissa Hanlon; Patrick Dewine, Executive Director the United Way of Greater Oswego County; Chena Tucker- Executive Director of the Richard S. Shineman Foundation and Jack Arpey, from SpectrumNews.



SpectrumNews will also be featuring Oswego Industries in an upcoming segment.

The door prize, a set of blue topaz earrings, was won by Marissa Hanlon with raffle baskets won by Brittany Howard and Chris Ouzts who won two baskets each, Keri Acome, Marolyn Baker, Deb Caprin, and Brenda Connely.

Special thanks to Administration, Career Employment Services, Com Hab, Finance, Group Day, LIFE Day Habilitation, Operations, Seniors, and Kathy Harris Roberts for Donating Raffle Baskets and members our staff, and volunteers, Nicole Ames, Brittany and Su-Ann Howard, Kathy Mills, Jeff Weigand, Amanda Gregory, Tammy Salm, Kyle Cushman, Ashley Sherman, Avery Sanders, Tacy Bricker, Janel Ridgeway, Amy Strong Vicki Skopinsky, Cassandra Kearns, Lisa Guernsey, Cassie McGinley, Lesa Granger, Darlene Baker and Lisa Williams.

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News From



[A message from Eric Geizer](#)
CEO of the Arc of NY State

To each of our Direct Support Professionals,

As we celebrate Direct Support Professionals Week, I wanted to express my gratitude for the incredible work you do day in and day out.



It is the mission of The Arc New York to “provide people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities the ordinary and extraordinary opportunities of life.” Your work is truly the foundation of that mission.

Every day you support people in achieving the very ordinary opportunities of daily living. Cooking, working, hygiene, fitness, finances and friendships are all navigated with your support. Beyond the ordinary, you support people in surmounting their challenges, seizing opportunities, and achieving the extraordinary.

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The Buzz

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Got News?

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(Continued from Page 1)

Being a Direct Support Professional takes skill, commitment, patience, resilience, and compassion. Through these qualities you empower people. You advocate for them. You care for them. You ensure their dignity. You make a difference.

This week is dedicated to honoring your contributions, and you absolutely deserve that recognition. But this week will pass, and you will continue to work tirelessly to support people through their ordinary and extraordinary days. You make a profound impact on the lives of those you serve, their families, and our communities. Know your efforts are seen, appreciated, and celebrated every day.

Thank you for your dedication, your selflessness, and your unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for those who need it most. We will continue to advocate for your profession to be recognized and valued as it should. May you continue to inspire and make a positive difference in the lives of others for years to come.

With gratitude and admiration from all of us at The Arc New York.



Erik Geizer
CEO

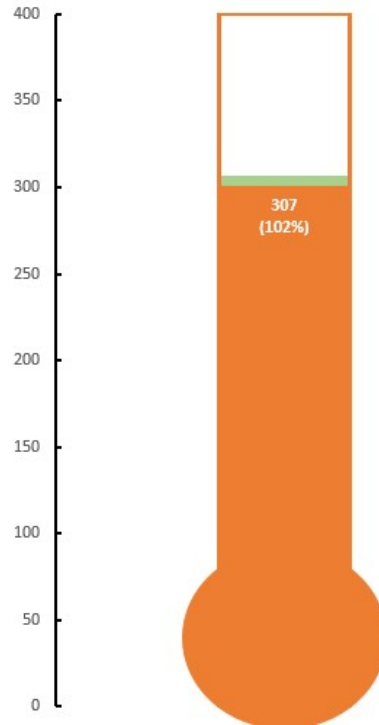


2023 Arc of Oswego County Membership Drive

Members = Delegates = Voting Power. The Arc of Oswego County is one of many chapters in New York State affiliated with The Arc New York and across the country affiliated with The Arc. The more members our chapter has, the more delegates and votes we earn for discussions involving state and local policy, and the greater our voice in advocating for the individuals we serve.

Members = Voters = Getting Heard. Politicians pay attention to numbers. When we tell a senator, congressman, or assemblyman that over 500 of his voters are members of our chapter of The Arc, they are more likely to listen to what we have to say.

Members = Supporters = New Donors. With government funding being cut dramatically, we need to increase donations from the community.



Every Member Counts...and We Count Every Member.

It's not to late to become a member or renew your membership.

2023 The Arc Membership: Payroll Deduction Form

Did you know... if half of our employees elected to deduct just \$3 from their paycheck for 1 year, our Membership campaign for The Arc would increase by 50%!?

That's the same as donating ONE medium cup of Dunkin coffee every other week!

Employee Name: _____ Department _____

Address (required) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

One-time payment : Please deduct \$ _____ from my next paycheck

Payment Plan: Please deduct \$ _____ from each paycheck _____ # of pays

Total Amount Deducted \$ _____

Example: If you wanted to donate the amount of a cup of coffee every other week, you would deduct \$3 from each paycheck for the next 26 Pay Periods. Your donation total would be \$78 AND your membership would be paid for 2024 and 2025



In the News

“

As leaders, you get things done through people — and it is important to recognize that..

Allen Connelly
President & CEO



The August issue of Oswego County Business Magazine published a special feature on Allen Connelly, Oswego Industries and the Arc of Oswego's new President and CEO. You can read the feature by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR Code below.



Frisch appointed to Oswego Industries Board

FULTON — Oswego Industries, a nonprofit organization empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, has welcomed Rebekkah Frisch to its board of directors.

Frisch has over a decade of digital marketing experience and a strong dedication to this cause. Her term will run through 2025, bringing valuable expertise to drive positive change and elevate the organization.

Frisch holds a deep connection to Oswego Industries.

“Oswego Industries is very close to my heart,” she said. “People with disabilities are too often left behind or left out, and the work being done by Oswego Industries is critical in empowering those with disabilities in our community to live rich, fulfilling lives of their own choosing.”

Her commitment to the organization’s mission is evident, as expressed by Oswego Industries Inc. Board President Mike Egan.

“I am very pleased to have Bekkah join the Oswego Industries Board. She is a former employee who understands and fully supports the mission of the organization,” Egan said.

Previously, Frisch worked as a digital marketer at



Photo provided

Oswego Industries Inc. Board President Mike Egan is pictured with Rebekkah Frisch, who has joined the Oswego Industries Board of Directors.

Web3 Pro, a California-based tech company. From 2019-2022, she also served as a marketing and communications associate at Oswego Industries and the Arc of Oswego County. Besides her professional endeavors, Frisch is an independent author, and her debut novel, “The Great Quiet,” has earned praise from critics.

As a board member, she will provide strategic insight, collaborate with fellow board members, and support ongoing initiatives, ensuring Oswego Industries remains at the forefront of groundbreaking programs and services.

The Palladium-Times

August 8, 2023

In the Community



Allen Connely (not pictured) Mike Weaver (Finance), Director of Operations, Lisa Guernsey, and Jeff Weigand (pictured with Luke Connor, Executive Director of the Oswego Public Library) attended the Greater Oswego Fulton Chamber of Commerce Summer Celebration, on August 1, at Kristen's Kitchen at Battle Island State Park Golf Course.

Oswego Industries, a non-profit organization empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, donated bicycle helmets to the Fulton Police Department.

Sergeant Steve Lunn stated, "The Fulton Police Department will provide a helmet, free of charge, whenever someone comes to the Police Station and requests a bike helmet."

Pictured are Nicole Ames, Services Manager for Oswego Industries, Robert W, a supported individual in Day Habilitation, and Officer Ed Hogan.



Save the Date:

Thursday, October 5: All Employee Town Hall

Thursday, October 19: Virtual Legislators Forum

Program Happenings



Tiffany Phelps, a Direct Support Professional from Oswego Industries, came up with the idea creating "rock snake" at Breitbeck Park, in Oswego. The rocks are painted by those enrolled in our program and services and the goal was to for Jake the Snake to reach the banks of Lake Ontario.

Jake was removed , by the Oswego Department of Public works , for HarborFEST and Oswego Family Fun Days.

Summer means outdoor activities for those enrolled in OI's LIFE Day Habilitation program.



Christina P. and Larissa C. pose for a picture with Captain Jack outside the Aloha Crab at Destiny USA. Christina and Larissa are both enrolled in our LIFE Program.

#LIFE #AbilitiesDefineUs

Like and follow-us on Social Media to see even more Program Happenings



Program Happenings



Amber G, Kevin B, and Arc of Oswego County staff Vanessa T and Pearl M enjoyed a recent outing to The Wild Animal Park in Chittenango.

Activities like this are made possible by a grant from the NYSARC Trust Services.



Pictured:

Richard S at McDonald's

Gary C at Mexico Point

John B and Kevin B at the Little Red Schoolhouse Museum in Sterling



Grants & Gifts

In Memory of Jackie Comerford

Jackie lived a carefree, loving life that exceeded all expectations that were laid out for her

We should all live like Jackie, love freely, FaceTime, text, and call your family repeatedly just to say hi and that you love them.

Sean Murtaugh	\$200	Cindy Ann Fish	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Volkomer	\$100	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Campbell	\$25
Scot Farrell	\$50	David L. Chase	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Comerford	\$50	Janet Musacchio	\$100
Patrick Braswell	\$50	Mr. & Mrs. David Deeb	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Molinari	\$50	Mr. & Mrs. John Dowdle	\$50
Maureen Mahon-Japha	\$50	Ms. Pat Tripp	\$50
Pamela M. Palmer	\$100	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Tucker	\$40
Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Caroccio	\$30	Raby's Ace Hardware	\$100
Mr. & Mrs Edward Matott	\$25	Ms. Mary Austin	\$100
Pat Goldstein	\$150	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Krakowa	\$50
Patty Familo	\$50	Ms. Jean W. White	\$50
Paula Braswell	\$100	John Finocchiaro	\$25
A. DeCastro	\$25	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mears	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Terrance Smith	\$100	Kathleen Comerford & Family	\$150
Eben Norfleet	\$50	France K. Enright	\$20
		Linda Stummer	\$50
		Linda K. Okniewski	\$20
		Mr. & Mrs. David McCrea	\$35
		Mr. & Mrs. David Radder	\$25
		Deana Masuicca	\$50
		Sharon Griggs	\$100
		Jean Fish	\$25

Staff Spotlight: Meet Lisa Guernsey

Lisa Guernsey Appointed as Director of Operations at Oswego Industries Inc.

FULTON - Oswego Industries Inc., a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities, is pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa Guernsey as the new Director of Operations.

Guernsey brings a wealth of experience and a passion for creating inclusive and supportive environments for individuals with disabilities. Her extensive background in operations management and commitment to Oswego Industries Inc.'s mission makes her a valuable addition to the team.

With a career spanning over 30 years, Lisa has demonstrated her ability to drive operational excellence in commercial manufacturing. She has a track record of implementing innovative strategies to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, and her dedication to fostering a culture of collaboration aligns perfectly with Oswego Industries Inc.'s core values.

"I welcome the opportunity to work in the community where I have spent my adult life, raised my family, and continue to make a difference while doing something I truly enjoy." Said Guernsey

Lisa's appointment comes at a crucial time for Oswego Industries Inc. as it strives to expand its reach and enhance its programs and services. Her leadership will play a pivotal role in driving the organization's growth and maintaining its reputation for excellence.

Welcome Lisa!





We Welcome

Administration

- Amanda Gregory-Executive Assistant to the CEO

Direct Support Professionals

- Jennifer Middleton-Group Day Hab
- Michael Hudson- Comm Hab
- Autumn Benavidez-LIFE
- Crystal Shepard-Comm Hab
- Ashley Meeks-Comm Hab
- Patrick Davern-Site Based Seniors

Employment Services

- Ashley Sherman-Behavioral Support Specialist / Employment Specialist
- Vicki Skopinsky-Employment Services Specialist I

Finance

- Austin Mason-Finance Associate

Maintenance

- Joseph Clausen-Maintenance Technician

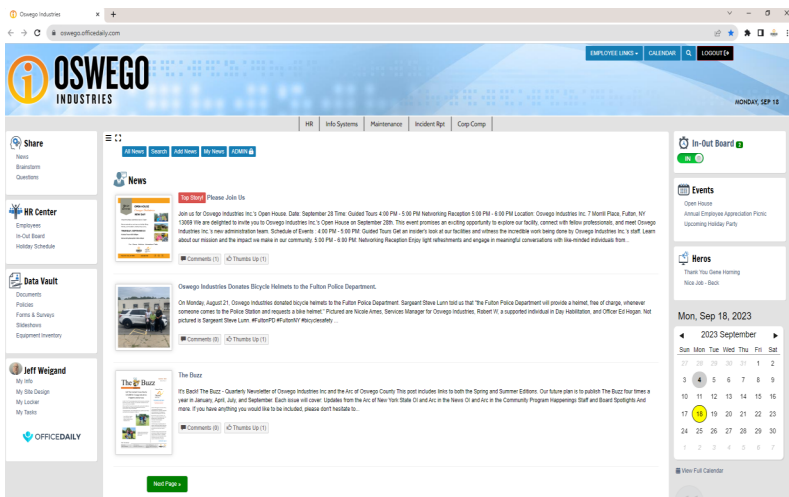
Production

- Gary Deyett-Production Support Associate

OI Board Of Directors

- Rebekkah Frisch
- Chris Waldron
- Samantha Clark

Introducing the Oswego Industries Intranet



We are excited to announce that on September 26, Oswego Industries Inc., and the Arc of Oswego County launched the staff website or Intranet.

This is a central location for communication for OI/Arc of Oswego. You will be able to get forms (HR, QA, Depart, etc.), keep up on the great things going on, see the names and contact information for all staff, have links to important external websites (i.e. UKG, OPWDD, etc.).

We look forward to receiving your input. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send them through to

ithelpdesk@oswegoind.org.





Scenes from our Open House





7 Morrill Place
Fulton, NY 13069

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 The Arc of Oswego County

The mission of The 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.

