

# THE BUZZ

Official Newsletter of Oswego Industries and  
the Arc of Oswego County



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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:** Lisa Guernsey & NY State  
Senator Christopher Ryan (D-NY 50)

## **OSWEGO COUNTY WORKFORCE NEW YORK TOURS OSWEGO INDUSTRIES**



OCWNY's Director Rachel Pierce, Oswego  
Industries Inc Employment Services Manager  
Su-Ann Howard Oswego Industries Inc.  
Director of Operations Lisa Guernsey

## **OPERATION OSWEGO COUNTY TOURS OSWEGO INDUSTRIES**



Operation Oswego County Economic  
Development Coordinator Nate Emmons,  
Operation Oswego County Executive Director  
Austin Wheelock and Oswego Industries Inc.  
Director of Operations Lisa Guernsey

# JOIN THE ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY FOR JUST \$1 – HELP BUILD A MORE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY!

Oswego County, NY – Making a difference has never been easier—or more affordable! The Arc of Oswego County invites you to be part of its **2025 Membership Drive**, where for just \$1, you can help create a more inclusive and supportive community for individuals with disabilities.

**Why does your membership matter?** Because your support strengthens programs that provide employment, training, and advocacy for people with disabilities. Every new member helps amplify our voice and expand opportunities for those we serve. That's why we've made membership just \$1 this year—so that everyone has the chance to stand with us and be part of the change.

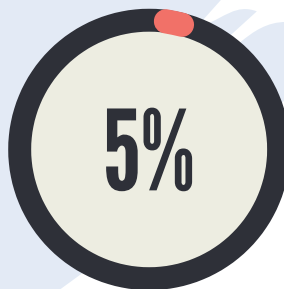
## **What does your membership do?**

- ✓ Expands essential programs and services
- ✓ Advocates for disability rights and inclusion
- ✓ Creates meaningful employment and training opportunities
- ✓ Builds a stronger, more connected community.

**Becoming a member is simple and takes just minute!** Please scan the QR Code below (Credit Card, PayPal or Venmo) or, if paying by cash or check, please see the coupon on page 11.

Your \$1 membership is more than just a donation—it's a statement that **you believe in inclusion, opportunity, and empowerment for all.**

**Join Us Today – Because Together, We Make a Difference!**



TO OUR GOAL OF 500  
MEMBERS





# SENATOR CHRISTOPHER RYAN VISITS OSWEGO INDUSTRIES AND ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY

FULTON, NY – On Friday, March 14, Senator Christopher Ryan (D-NY50) visited Oswego Industries, Inc. and The Arc of Oswego County to learn more about their programs and services supporting individuals with disabilities.

During his tour, Senator Ryan explored Oswego Industries' Business Services division, Day Habilitation program, and LIFE (Learning, Independence, Fun, and Empowerment) program. He also visited The Arc of Oswego County's Senior Day Habilitation program, which provides essential services to aging individuals with disabilities.

Additionally, Senator Ryan saw a demonstration of Oswego Industries' newest initiative, Virtual Reality for Career Exploration. This innovative program helps individuals explore job opportunities in a simulated environment, equipping them with valuable skills for future employment.

Oswego Industries, Inc. and The Arc of Oswego County appreciate Senator Ryan's time and interest in learning how their programs empower individuals with disabilities to lead independent and fulfilling lives.





# OSWEGO INDUSTRIES INC. AND ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY JOIN HUNDREDS AT #INVESTINUS RALLY TO ADVOCATE FOR DISABILITY SERVICES FUNDING

Syracuse, NY – Oswego Industries Inc. and Arc of Oswego County joined advocates at the #InvestInUs Rally on March 21 at the New York State Fairgrounds, amplifying the voices of individuals with disabilities and the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who provide essential care. Hosted by Arc of Onondaga and AccessCNY, the event emphasized the need for better pay and resources for DSPs and increased funding to sustain critical services.

The rally drew over 300 attendees, including more than 30 individuals and staff from Oswego Industries Inc. and Arc of Oswego County. Among them were Congressman John Mannion (CD NY-22), Senator Rachel May (NY-48), Senator Christopher Ryan (NY-50), and The Arc New York CEO Eric Geizer, who voiced their support for a 7.8% funding increase in the state budget and opposition to federal Medicaid cuts threatening essential services.

Oswego Industries Inc. and Arc of Oswego County, alongside The Arc New York, continue to advocate for fair wages for DSPs and sustainable funding for disability services, ensuring individuals with disabilities receive the support they deserve. #AdvocacyMatters #WeMatter #InvestInMe #InvestInUs

For more photo's please see "We Matter" on page 12



# PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY



In January, the Travel class completed its four-week virtual trip to China! During their visit, led by Community Hab/Respite Coordinator Janel R. and DSP Leah D., participants explored China's rich history and culture, practiced speaking Mandarin, and learned about the Lunar New Year. They wrapped up their journey by making lo mein and spring rolls—choosing lo mein because it is known as "longevity noodles," symbolizing a long life.

A special thanks to Lisa Odin of Mama Lisa's Tasty Treats for making delicious black tea milk cakes!

Next stop: Jamaica! "We're excited to continue filling our passports with stamps and fun facts as we explore new destinations.", said Janel R

Germaine A. and Gerard C., along with DSP Tricia B., helped deliver Meals on Wheels in Fulton. This vital program, provided through the Oswego County Office for the Aging, ensures that Oswego County residents aged 60 and over, along with their spouses, caregivers, or those they care for, receive nutritious meals. Many participants face challenges shopping for and preparing food, making this service essential.

These meals, prepared by Oswego County Opportunities (OCO) and delivered by OCO and community volunteers, can be easily heated in a microwave or conventional oven. Designed to accommodate dietary needs, the meals contain no added salt, though some ingredients may naturally include sodium. Menus are carefully planned by a program dietitian and distributed monthly.





# PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY



After a snowy February, signs of spring are finally here! Warmer weather means more outdoor activities for the individuals we support.

Kevin B., Kyle A., Brian A., and Kevin W. enjoyed a visit to Breitbeck Park with DSP Zena.

Kevin B. and Charles S. explored the Rosamond Gifford Zoo with Community Hab.

Harley P. and Amber P. took in the lake views at Fair Haven Beach State Park.

Brian W. and Gary C. also enjoyed nature trails at Beaver Lake Nature Center.

With spring on the way, we look forward to more outdoor adventures ahead!





# PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY



Seniors, Val D, Sandy S., Harry R, and Staff Mary L., (not pictured) and Michelle P. visited the CiTi CoCo Cafe in Fulton.

"CiTi CoCo Cafe is a student-run coffee shop and gift store located at 129 Cayuga Street in Fulton, NY. This unique venture is not just a café—it's an innovative educational program that offers students invaluable real-world business experience."

Operating Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., CiTi CoCo Cafe invites community members to enjoy freshly brewed coffee, a curated selection of student-made gifts and exceptional customer service—all while supporting local youth and their future careers.





**OSWEGO INDUSTRIES FUNDRAISER**  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23  
AT HISTORIC NBT STADIUM

 **VS** 

GATES OPEN 5:30 PM      FIRST PITCH 6:35 PM

\$5 from each ticket purchased, via the link or QR code below, will be donated to Oswego Industries\*

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Oswegoindustries2>

 Or scan the QR Code 

ARC OF OSWEGO  
PRESENTS  
**SPRING DANCE 2025**  
\$5 ADMISSION

**FRIDAY, APRIL 25**  
5-8 PM IN THE CAFE AT OSWEGO INDUSTRIES

featuring  
**DJ RON WITH MILLENNIUM MUSIC**

Contact: Janel Ridgeway  
315-598-3108 ext. 362  
315-552-4796

Please RSVP by 4/18/25  
[JRIDGWAY@OSWEGOIND.ORG](mailto:JRIDGWAY@OSWEGOIND.ORG)



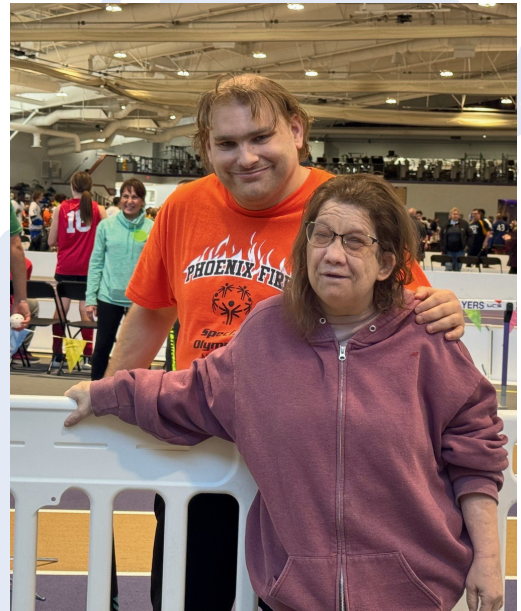
# OSWEGO INDUSTRIES PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT AND COMPETE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW YORK

On February 22, Respite DSP Emily S. and Coordinator Janel R. led a group from Oswego Industries to Rochester to support Special Olympics New York, an organization that provides inclusive opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to discover and unleash the champion within.

Among the competitors were Tyler L., Kevin B., David B., and Derek G., who participated in floorball. Floorball is a fast-paced indoor sport played with five field players and a goalkeeper per team, using lightweight sticks and a hollow plastic ball with holes. At the Special Olympics, the game is adapted to a 3-on-3 format with a goaltender, and played on a smaller court. This modified version was developed specifically for athletes with intellectual disabilities, providing an exciting and accessible way to compete.

Dan H., Brian A., Kevin W., Andrew B., Bonnie B., Kim P., Amanda P., and Jason K. surprised their friends by making the trip to the Golisano Training Center at Nazareth University to cheer them on during the competition.

Special Olympics New York gives athletes the chance to compete in authentic sports, overcome obstacles, celebrate victories, and stay active for life. The event was a testament to the power of inclusion and the impact of community support.



# EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

## 10 Years

George Dennison  
Mary LaBeef  
Elissa Miner

## 15 years

Celia Stevens

## WE REMEMBER

Kelly Cook

## GRANTS & GIFTS



\$100 In Memory of Michelle Coant



CENTRAL NEW YORK  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

\$4,700 To support Virtual Reality for Career Exploration



\$25,000 to assist Oswego Industries with becoming CMMC (Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification) Compliance



Oswego Industries, Inc. would like to acknowledge the donation of an exercise bike by Tim and Connie Murphy. Connie Murphy worked in the disabilities field for years and knows how important exercise is to our individuals supported.



# ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Jerry Collins  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Egan\*\*  
 Mrs. Julie M. Holland\*\*  
 Mr. Bill Lansley  
 Mrs. Kay A. Pullen  
 Mr. Roger Pullen  
 Mr. & Mrs Brian Sawyer\*\*  
 Mr. Timothy Sollenberger  
 Mr. Larry Spencer  
 Ms. Amy Strong\*  
 Mr. Jeffrey Weigand\*



\*Employee  
 \*\*Board Member



Please select YOUR  
 Level of Membership

- ☐ \$1 Per Person
  - ☐ \$50 Arc Patron
  - ☐ \$100 Arc Champion
  - ☐ \$250 Corporate membership
  - ☐ \$500 Arc Supporter
  - ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other/Add'l donation
- Total Donation \_\_\_\_\_

☐ YES! I would like to become a member of Arc of Oswego County.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (required): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional member name/email (MUST reside at same address and be over the age of 18)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type: VISA    MASTERCARD    DISCOVER    AMEX

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Check Payable to: Arc of Oswego County

Arc of Oswego County  
 7 Morrill Place  
 Fulton, NY 13069  
 Attn: Membership



# WE MATTER

Continued from page 5



## 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.

