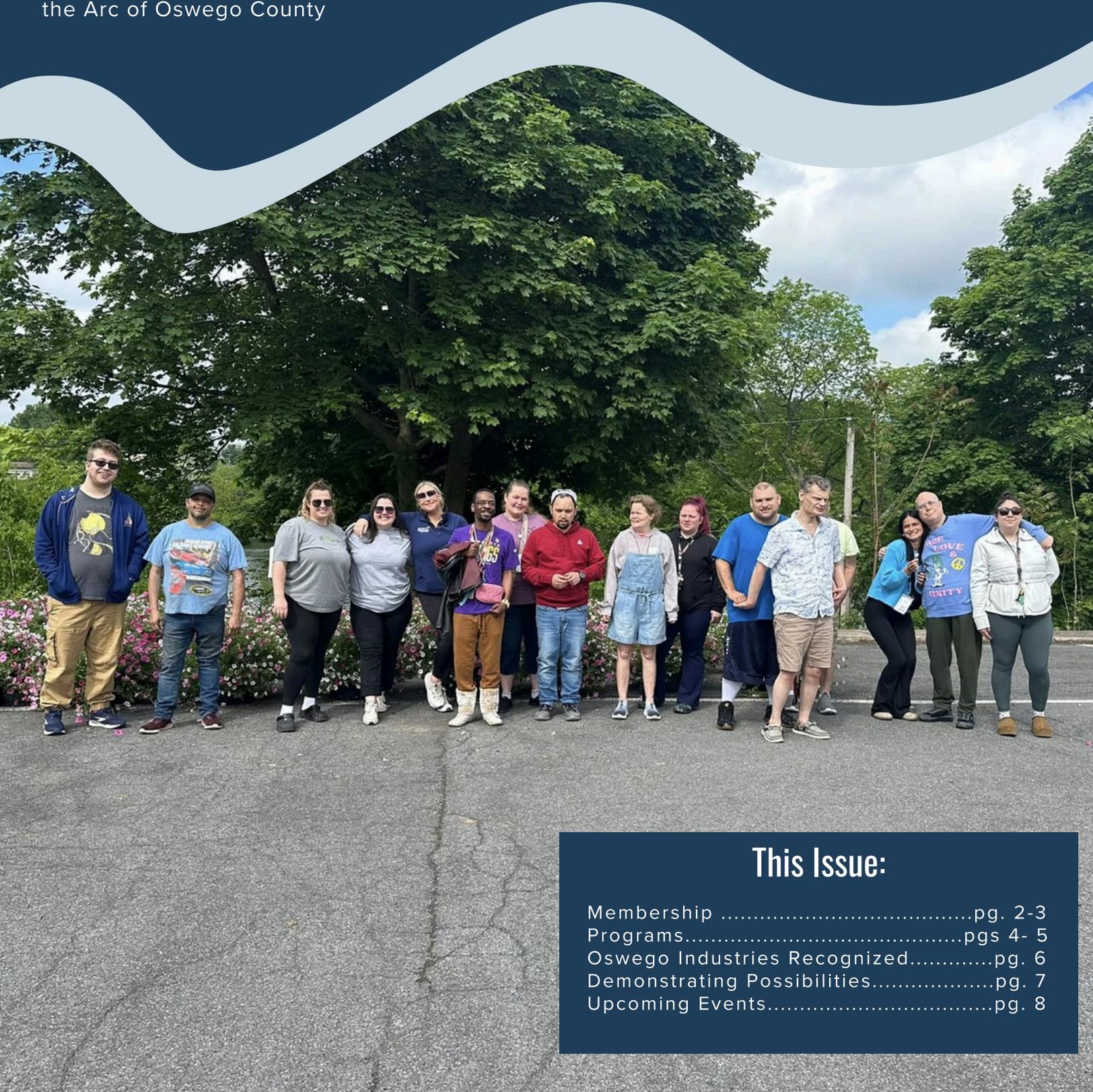


THE BUZZ

Official Newsletter of Oswego Industries and
the Arc of Oswego County



This Issue:

Membership	pg. 2-3
Programs.....	pgs 4- 5
Oswego Industries Recognized.....	pg. 6
Demonstrating Possibilities.....	pg. 7
Upcoming Events.....	pg. 8

The Buzz is published four times annually
by Oswego Industries Inc. and Arc of
Oswego County
7 Morrill Place
Fulton, NY 13126
www.oswegoindustriesinc.org
www.arcofoswegocounty.org

Editor

Jeff Weigand 315-598-3108 ext. 314
jweigand@oswegoind.org

Senior Leadership

President & CEO-Allen Connely
Director of Administration-Tammy Slayton
Director of Operations-Lisa Guernsey
Finance Manager-Michael Weaver
Human Resource Manager -Pamela Shelton
Services Manager-Nicole Ames
Employment Services Manager-Su-Ann Howard

OI Board of Directors

Mike Egan-President
Richard Rima-Vice President
Heather Hudson-Secretary
Julie Holland - Treasurer

Mary Ann Barbarino
Samantha Clark
Camille Cristaldi
Larry Ogorchock
Bekkah Frisch
Brian Sawyer

Arc Board of Directors

Brian Sawyer-President
Richard Rima-Vice President
Mary Ann Barbarino-Secretary
Heather Hudson- Treasurer

Camille Cristaldi
Gracia Thompson
Stacy Ellis
Michael Egan
Larry Ogorchock
Julie Holland
Bekkah Frisch

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: Project Bloom 2025 with the
GOFCC**

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!



ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY MEMBERSHIP

Primary Members

Debra Allen
 Nicole Ames**
 Sandra Bates**
 Diane Barbur
 Brandi Bennett**
 Mindy Billman**
 Susan Brown**
 Patricia Buck**
 Dan Cleverly**
 Jerry Collins
 Dennis Colocino
 Courtney Cook**
 Carol DeLong**
 Patrick DaVern**
 Christian DeRoerver**
 Sheila Dion
 Michael Egan*
 Lisa Feliciano**
 Nathan Frey**
 Amanda Gregory**
 Lisa Guernsey**
 Danielle Guile**
 Cheryl Hawkins**
 Karissa Heffron
 Kassidy Hofman**

Tabetha Hofman**
 Julie M. Holland*
 Carol Horne
 Bailey Hotaling**
 Su-Ann Howard**
 Jason Hutchinson
 Sandra Iadanza**
 Chrissy James**
 Brook Jones
 Jodi Kobus**
 Mary Labeef**
 Joshua Ladd**
 Richard Lafond
 Bill Lansley
 AlecsZandre Livingston**
 Genesis Loetterie**
 Jeremy Lyles**
 Pearl Madison**
 Kathleen Mills**
 Georgia Monteith**
 Samantha Moore
 Linda Okoniewski
 Judy Orzano
 Jane Prall
 Kay Pullen

Richard Rima*
 Chester Reynolds**
 Brian Sawyer*
 Amanda Sawyer**
 Donna Sharpe**
 Pamela Shelton**
 Dawn Smith**
 Emily Stacks**
 Jesica Stacks**
 Larry Steinberg
 Michelle Stock**
 Amy Strong**
 Troie Sweeting**
 Samantha Terry**
 Vanessa Thibault**
 Merrilee Towardowski**
 Beatta Trovato**
 Lorelee Wallace**
 Kay A Wallon**
 Dennis Waloven**
 Carolyn Waterman
 Michael Weaver, Sr.**
 Jeff Weigand**

*Board Member

**Employee

As of June 27th 2025



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

Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address (Required) _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____

\$1 per person you are including
 in your membership

Please make checks payable to:
Arc of Oswego County

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

Additional Member(s) - Must reside at the same address and be over the
 age of 18

Name: _____ Email: _____
 Name: _____ Email: _____
 Name: _____ Email: _____
 Name: _____ Email: _____

The Arc of Oswego County is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization
 that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
 their families, and the community at large.

PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY



OSWEGO INDUSTRIES JOINS THE COMMUNITY AT UNITED WAY'S STONE SOUP TOO LUNCHEON IN FULTON

Individuals supported by Oswego Industries—Derek A., Amanda P., Phil P., Germaine A., Anthony B.R., and Jimmy A.—were proud to attend the United Way of Greater Oswego County's Stone Soup Luncheon in Fulton, accompanied by staff member Danielle T.

This annual event brings the community together to support local hunger-relief efforts and build a stronger, more connected Oswego County. We are grateful to the United Way for hosting such a meaningful gathering and for the opportunity to stand alongside others committed to making a difference

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER AT THE ARC OF OSWEGO'S SPRING DANCE

The Café at Oswego Industries was filled with joy and celebration as we hosted the Arc of Oswego's Spring Dance 2025. Individuals supported, staff, and friends came together for an evening of music, laughter, and lasting memories.

DJ Ron from Millennium Music kept the energy high throughout the night, providing the perfect soundtrack for a dance floor that never slowed down.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating the season. Your enthusiasm and support made the event truly special. We're already looking forward to dancing with you again next year!



LEARNING FROM OUR LOCAL HEROES: A VISIT TO THE OSWEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Toby H., Sarah P., Roy L., Germaine A., Jimmy A., Jon C., Justin L., and Josh McD. recently had the exciting opportunity to visit one of the Oswego Fire Stations for a behind-the-scenes look at the important work of our local first responders.

With support from Direct Support Professionals Bailey H., Emily S., and Danielle T., the group explored fire trucks, examined equipment, and learned more about the critical role firefighters play in keeping our community safe.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Oswego Fire Department for their time, hospitality, and dedication to public service. It was an informative and inspiring experience for all involved.



PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY

CHEERING ON THE HANNIBAL WARRIORS

Kevin B. and Tyler L. spent part of their spring break enjoying America's pastime as they cheered on the Hannibal Warriors Boys Varsity Baseball team. With support from Direct Support Professional Kassidy, the group had a great day out in the community, celebrating teamwork, sportsmanship, and local pride.

We're always proud to support our area's student-athletes—go Warriors!



PROJECT BLOOM BRINGS COLOR AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO OSWEGO COUNTY

The Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce's Project Bloom is once again brightening our communities with vibrant flowers and joyful energy.

This annual beautification initiative brings life and color to downtown areas, local businesses, and city parks—helping Oswego County shine even brighter.

We were proud to be part of this year's efforts, with several individuals supported by our programs participating in flower deliveries throughout the area.

ARC RESPITE BOWLING LEAGUE WRAPS UP WITH COLORFUL CELEBRATION

We recently celebrated the end of our May 2025 Arc Respite Bowling League with a fun and festive banquet! This year's participants tie-dyed their own shirts for the occasion—and they looked fantastic.

Congratulations to Kyle A. for bowling the high game of 125, and to The Weasels—Kyle, Kim P., Richard S., and Alex R.—for taking first place! Shoutout to all our amazing bowlers, and a big thank you to staff Emily S., Dana O., Pat E., and Zena S. for making the season such a success. See you next season—keep rolling!



OSWEGO INDUSTRIES, INC. RECEIVES OPERATION OSWEGO COUNTY'S 2025 JOBS AWARD

FULTON, N.Y. — Oswego Industries, Inc. has been named the recipient of the 2025 Jobs Award by Operation Oswego County. The award was presented during the organization's annual meeting, held at the Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center in Oswego.

The Jobs Award is given each year to a business that has made a significant capital investment and contributed to the creation and retention of jobs in Oswego County. Oswego Industries was honored for employing more than 100 individuals with disabilities—165 employees in total—and for its long-standing impact on the local economy through contract work, textile manufacturing, and specialty services based in the city of Fulton.

In addition to job numbers, the award highlights the meaningful nature of the employment opportunities Oswego Industries creates. For more than 57 years, the nonprofit has remained committed to empowering people with disabilities to live fulfilling lives through employment and independence.

“This is one of the great things we're able to do in our community,” said Allen Connely, president and CEO of Oswego Industries. “Coming from the private sector and now leading a nonprofit, I can tell you this work is uplifting. You get to see the impact you're making on young people and older people alike. It's incredibly meaningful.”

Connely also highlighted how Oswego Industries is investing in new technologies to expand its workforce and create more inclusive jobs for the future.

Most people don't know that we're also a Department of Defense contractor,” he said

. “We make all of the coveralls for mechanics in the Air Force. While that's part of our legacy, we're also investing nearly half a million dollars into new cutting technology to support higher-tech jobs for individuals with disabilities.”

Connely emphasized the importance of creating roles that allow individuals with varying abilities—including those with more severe disabilities—to contribute to meaningful work without being limited by physical dexterity.

“We're putting that investment back into the community to open doors for people who are often marginalized,” Connely said. “This is about working side-by-side, creating real products, and contributing to something larger than ourselves. We're proud of that—and we're going to be part of this community for another 57 years, for sure.”



Pictured L to R: OOC Board President Peter Cullinan, Oswego Industries, Inc. President & CEO Allen Connely, and OOC Executive Director Austin Wheelock CECD

DEMONSTRATING POSSIBILITIES THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY CAREER EXPLORATION

Over the past few months, our team has had the incredible opportunity to connect with educators, administrators, and program leaders throughout Oswego County to demonstrate the power of Virtual Reality for Career Exploration. These experiences have not only allowed us to showcase the exciting capabilities of this innovative tool but have also deepened our partnerships with those who share our mission to prepare students and adult learners for meaningful, independent futures.

Through immersive demonstrations, we've illustrated how Virtual Reality can spark curiosity, build confidence, and open doors to new possibilities. At each demonstration, participants were able to step into a range of real-world job environments—from healthcare and hospitality to manufacturing and emergency services—all within a controlled, supportive, and engaging setting.

We've been proud to work with the Oswego County Committee on Special Education (CSE), highlighting how this technology complements transition planning for students with IEPs. These simulations offer hands-on career exposure that helps students explore interests, build skills, and identify potential career paths well before graduation.

Our collaboration with BOCES has been equally impactful. We've connected with leaders across the Exceptional Education+, P-TECH, Career & Technical Education (CTE), SYNERGY, and Adult Education programs to demonstrate how our VR platform can enhance their existing programming. These sessions sparked exciting conversations about how virtual career exploration can serve students across a broad spectrum of abilities and goals, providing accessible pathways to employment readiness and vocational discovery.

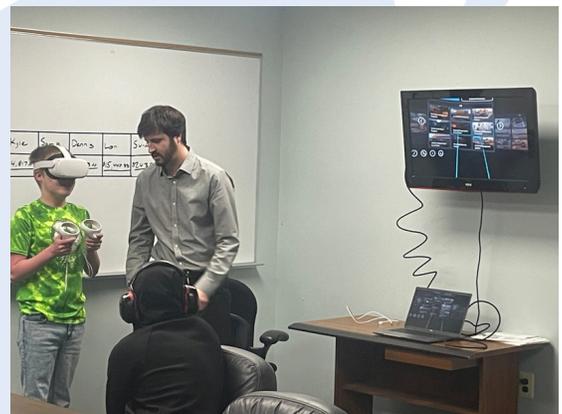
We were especially honored to welcome the Central Square School District's Foundations Special Education Program for a guided tour of our facility. Students and staff had the chance to experience our VR Career

Exploration firsthand and see how we support individuals as they gain independence, learn workplace expectations, and explore career options in a realistic, hands-on way. Their visit reinforced the value of direct exposure and collaboration in creating bridges from school to adult life.

Each demonstration has reaffirmed what we already believe: when given the right tools and support, every individual can find their path. Through Virtual Reality, we're not just offering a glimpse into future careers—we're providing the first step on a journey toward greater independence, purpose, and possibility.

As we look ahead, we're excited about the new partnerships forming from these visits and the growing interest in bringing this experience to more classrooms, programs, and communities.

Let's continue to build a future where every learner has the chance to thrive—one simulation at a time.



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS



- **When:** Thursday, July 10 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm
- **Where:** Chubby's Sports Bar, Fulton
- **What:** Oswego Women Lead Professional Networking Event
- **Cost:** \$10
 - Registration fee will be donated to Oswego Industries
 - Register here: <https://bit.ly/4k1g5S4>



- **When:** Wednesday, July 23 6:35 pm
- **Where:** NBT Bank Stadium
- **What:** 

- **Cost:** \$23.50 - \$27.00 (excludes fees)
 - \$5 from each ticket purchased, via the link below, will be donated to Oswego Industries, Inc
 - <https://bit.ly/3HJujFb>



- **When:** Friday, July 25 2:00 pm-8:00 pm
- **Where:** Lakeview Lanes
- **What:** Bowling and Mini-Golf Fundraiser
- **Cost:**
 - Bowling \$10 per person per hour
 - Mini-Golf \$5 per person per hour



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.

