

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.

Cover Photo: Sarah Heppell Photography

CAPTURING INCLUSION:

Oswego Industries Showcases AbilityOne Impact Through Collaboration

In June, Oswego Industries, Inc. was awarded a grant from SourceAmerica to enhance our social media and marketing efforts.

This funding supports our role as an AbilityOne contractor—a federal initiative that creates employment opportunities for individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities.

In August, we welcomed Diam Media, Aurora of CNY, Inc, and Sarah Heppell Photography to our facility to document the work being done on our AbilityOne contracts. Their team captured photos, b-roll, and interviewed several employees about their roles at Oswego Industries.

We look forward to sharing these stories and continuing to advocate for inclusive employment.



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MILESTONES



Adam George
Gloria Michalett

PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY

FUN AND DISCOVERY AT THE GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR

We had an amazing time taking several groups to the Great New York State Fair! From thrilling exhibits—especially the Ice Age exhibit, which was a hit with everyone—to delicious fair treats, the day was packed with fun and excitement.

✨ Justin had an unforgettable moment standing beside a massive, lifelike elephant statue inside the Expo Center. The exhibit drew plenty of attention from fairgoers and added a touch of wonder to the indoor displays.

✨ Alex B. enjoyed the traditional \$.25 cup of milk,

✨ DSPs Crystal and Leaha brought Terri F., Jean F., Robin W., Brian W., and Cheyanna D.

✨ DSP Cassidy joined Lauralei L. and Christina P. for a joyful tram ride, and everyone was all smiles.

Outings like these offer meaningful opportunities to explore, connect, and create lasting memories together.



PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY

SENIOR DAY HAB CELEBRATES NATURE AND TOGETHERNESS AT ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO

DSPs Michelle and Sandra from Senior Day Hab took Debbie P., Val D., Paul W., and Faye B to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo for a day of discovery, connection, and fun with nature.



🍏 APPLE PICKING FUN AT BEHLING'S! 🍏

Amanda Pr., Mitchell T., Ron E., Imari P., Jimmy A., Tom Mcl., and Anthony BR., had a great time picking apples and enjoying the fresh air at Behling Orchards 🍏

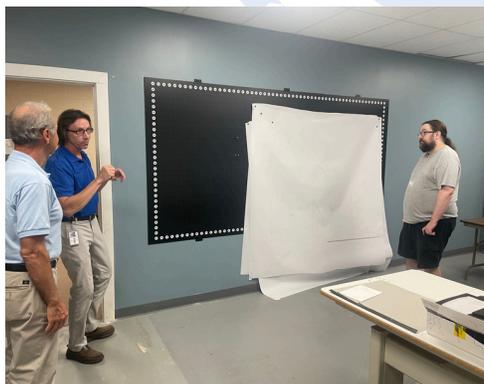
A big thank you to DSPs Kim A., Robin G.,(not pictured) and Danielle T. for their support throughout the day. It was a simple, fun outing with good people and good vibes. 🍏

PROGRAMS FOSTERING GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY



DSPs Pat E. and Dana O. led a fantastic Respite group trip to enjoy a Syracuse Mets game! It was a beautiful day filled with baseball, laughter, and great company. Pictured here: Anthony BR., Toby H., Dan H., Brian A., Kevin W., Sue L., DSP Pat E., Kyle A., Josh R., and Kevin B.

OSWEGO MAYOR ROBERT CORRADINO VISITS OI



Pictured: Oswego Mayor Robert Corradino, Director of Business Operations & Services Kenny Hancharik, Production Support Associate Aaron Barnett

In July, we were honored to welcome Mayor Robert Corradino for a tour of Oswego Industries.

We're grateful for Mayor Corradino's continued commitment to inclusive workforce development and community partnership. His visit underscores the importance of collaboration between local government and nonprofit organizations like ours.

Thank you, Mayor Corradino, for taking the time to learn more about our mission and the people we proudly serve!

GRANTS AND GIFTS



\$20,000 Social media and marketing grant to promote our AbilityOne work



\$5,000 for Community Based Pre Voc



\$5,000 to support Strong Families Strong Communities



CENTRAL NEW YORK
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

\$1,000 for Staff Advancement



IN MEMORY OF TOM SCARDELLA

Henry & Kary Calabro
Lois Luber
Mary & Michael O'Brien
Anthony Scardella

David Scardella
Kathleen & Joseph Scardella
Lauren & Amy Scardella

SOURCEAMERICA VISITS OSWEGO INDUSTRIES

In September representatives from SourceAmerica — the agency that coordinates the AbilityOne program, a program which supports employment for individuals with disabilities — visited our facility. During their visit, they toured our Novelis silicon repacking operation, our reimagined textiles sewing floor and observed our new automated cutting table in operation.



OSWEGO INDUSTRIES: EMPOWERING THROUGH ABILITYONE

A conversation with Kenny Hancharik, Director of Business Operations and Services



“We’re here to make a profit—not for shareholders, but to reinvest in our people. That’s what makes this work so rewarding.”

— Kenny Hancharik, Director of Business Operations and Services

Nestled in Oswego County, Oswego Industries is quietly leading a workforce revolution—one built on inclusion, opportunity, and meaningful impact. As a proud partner in the federal AbilityOne Program, the organization is creating employment pathways for individuals with disabilities, while contributing to vital federal contracts and strengthening the local economy.

The AbilityOne Program opens doors that might otherwise remain closed, especially in rural communities. It connects nonprofits like Oswego Industries to Department of Defense and GSA contracts, allowing them to compete in markets typically dominated by large corporations. Kenny Hancharik, Director of Business Operations, calls it “a lifeline for small nonprofits,” underscoring its role in sustaining and expanding mission-driven work.

That mission is shared with partners like Finger Lakes Textiles and Mozaic, who have carved out a niche in headwear manufacturing for the U.S. military. From wool caps for Navy cadets to fleece hats worn by the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force, the work is tangible and far-reaching. “With Mozaic currently producing around 25,000 fleece caps per month,” Hancharik shared. “Work is now spilling over into the facility here at Oswego, strengthening the partnership, creating more jobs, and expanding our capabilities all because of AbilityOne.”

See Hancharik page 10

Hancharik from page 9

Technology is also playing a transformative role. A state-of-the-art cutting machine, acquired from a grant applied for by Mozaic and funded by the AbilityOne Commission, was installed at Oswego Industries due to space requirements. This equipment replaces tedious manual labor with precision automation, allowing employees to learn new skills and work more efficiently. “It’s a game-changer,” Hancharik said. “Staff at Oswego Industries are being trained on how to use CNC nesting equipment and computer interfaces—bringing them into 21st-century manufacturing.”

At the heart of Oswego Industries is a culture of pride, independence, and mutual respect. “Everyone here is held to the same standards as any Fortune 500 company,” Hancharik emphasized. “They’re proud of their work because they know it matters.” Employees like Wesley, who is deaf and has been with the organization for over three decades, and Jason, a natural leader and motivator, embody the spirit of inclusive employment and the value of every individual. Despite its impact, Oswego Industries remains a hidden gem. But that’s changing. By sharing its story and showcasing its work, the organization is attracting more opportunities, more contracts, and more community support—ultimately creating more jobs and expanding its mission.

As federal spending shifts and employment pools shrink, Oswego Industries continues to adapt. A managed services agreement with Mozaic has allowed for resource sharing and contract balancing, but the heart of the operation remains local. And that heart beats with purpose.

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.

