

Join Today!



IT MATTERS TO Me

2017

Arc of Oswego County Newsletter

Arc of Oswego County achieves Commission on Quality and Leadership (CQL) accreditation



Arc of Oswego County has been awarded the three-year Quality Assurances Accreditation from CQL| The Council on Quality and Leadership. This award confirms that the organization embraces person-centered solutions to improve the quality of life for people receiving supports and services. When Arc partnered with CQL to pursue accreditation, it undertook a rigorous process to review and improve supports and services. The efforts of the Arc of Oswego county were focused on empowering the people who receive supports to pursue what really matters in their lives, and achieve their personally-defined outcomes.

Pictured at right is Caitlin Doran-Prior, who accepted the newly created position of Corporate Compliance Officer. Caitlin proudly displays our agency's recently awarded CQL Accreditation plaque. We are very proud of this designation and the commitment we have made to continuing our high quality Person-Centered services.



2016 John Reading Award



Photo from left to right are Tom Reading, son of the late John Reading and Coleen DeForest, recipient of the 2017 John Reading Award.

Arc of Oswego County presented the 2016 John Reading Award to Coleen DeForest. The John Reading award is given to someone with personal commitment, vision, passion, and resolve to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Coleen DeForest does just that. When the Maintenance and Custodial Departments were combined, Coleen stepped up to the plate and assumed a new role as Director of Facilities & Custodial Services where she will hold responsibility for the Maintenance/Grounds Department and both the Oswego and Onondaga Custodial Crews.

We are very pleased to announce that Coleen DeForest has been awarded the John Reading award. With her 35 years employed with OI/Arc, Coleen has shown commitment, perseverance and passion for our mission.



May 20th
9am—1pm
Oswego Industries
7 Morrill Place, Fulton, NY



October 7th
Check-in 8:00am; Race at 9:00
Oswego Industries
7 Morrill Place, Fulton, NY



FLAME the Band to perform at the Back to School Blast Free Community Concert Friday, September 15th 6-8pm

Arc of Oswego County is proud to host inclusive events for children & families throughout Oswego County. The 2017 event will be Friday, September 15th from 6-8pm with vendors & refreshments. We are happy to announce that FLAME, a group of talented musicians from upstate New York who happen to have disabilities will be performing at our event. In 2003 the band, from Lexington – Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc. started changing the world through their music. Since then, requests to hire Flame have poured in from all over the world.



Flame averages 70 paid performances per year, including concerts in 16 different states and in Europe. Flame's song list contains over 100 classic hits – rock, country, and blues. Recent events have catapulted Flame into the national spotlight – performances at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the House of Blues, both in Cleveland, Ohio; a feature story in "People" magazine and a segment on ABC TV's "Good Morning America."

Celebrate with us at the Back To School Blast this fall!

Arc of Oswego County steps up to support other agencies



Among the many events that were planned for National Autism Awareness month in April, the very first one was a great success for our Arc of Oswego County team. The Outrun Autism 5K event was held on Saturday, April 1st and Arc responded by participating with a 10 person team!! It was a cold and rainy morning but everyone made it to the finish line with a smile on their face.

As you may know, Arc of Oswego County and Oswego Industries often partner with local agencies such as Parents of Special Children, ARISE, OCO and Office of the Aging. Our agency strives improve awareness of all local resources that may help people we support. Our support of these complementary organizations ensure that services and programs are available whenever and wherever a need may occur.



Want to help Arc of Oswego County every time you shop? Sign up for Amazon Smile.

Here's what to know:

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support Arc of Oswego County by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.



Join us for the 2nd annual Community Yard Sale Fundraiser.
Saturday, May 20
9a.m. to 1 p.m.

at
Oswego Industries
(main site)
7 Morrill Place,
Fulton NY

Clothing (ALL sizes), sports equipment, household items, kitchen items and appliances, tools, books, antiques, costume/vintage jewelry, toys, collectors items, and much more!

Oswego Industries 12th Annual Golf Open set for Saturday, June 3

The Oswego Industries, Inc. annual Golf Open at Battle Island Golf Course is a captain and crew tournament which includes our signature "Disability Hole" where team members attempt to tee off with a simulated disability.

Registration fees include 18 holes of golf with use of a cart, snack, refreshments,

dinner, silent auction, awards, course prizes and more.



Sponsorship opportunities are still available; those interested in playing can register any time. The event registration will have a shot-gun start at 1:00 p.m.

At \$75 per player, this is one of the best charity golf deals around!



Oswego Cares is a community supported clothing drive brought to you by ZINK Shirts and Enactus which helps provide struggling families with new apparel. The wonderful folks at Oswego Industries, in harmony with the ARC, assisted in all of the distribution of collected apparel from the event.

Glenn Zansitis, owner of ZINK shirts in Oswego has been the major supporter of this event since 2015. Zink provides matching clothing for the items donated.

SKATE AND SLIDE

Sponsored by:



Skate And Slide 2017

Often, families hesitate to bring their children with disabilities to a public place such as an ice rink because of accessibility issues, or fearing that a child's inability to skate may disrupt the experience for other attendees. **Skate and Slide** is an opportunity to explore the ice at the ice rink.

With this special event, parents and siblings can enjoy some time on the ice with their child with special needs without worry.



Oswego Minor Hockey Association and Arc of Oswego County partnered together for this event once again in 2017. Volunteer hockey association players guided children around the ice, whether they chose to skate, slide or simply walk. Children were even being pulled on sleds around the ice.



Look for the 2018 event in March!

FIRST Inaugural Pancake Breakfast hosted by Red Schoolhouse Maple

Arc of Oswego County board member Camille Cristaldi took the initiative to develop this new event and partner with local maple sugar producer Red Schoolhouse Maple.

We are so thankful and impressed at the dedication Camille has shown to the agency by taking on the event independently. She worked with Kim and Kevin Enders at Red Schoolhouse Maple to start with an idea and turn it into a wonderful event that was attended by over 100 people!. Our gratitude goes out to Camille, the Enders family and staff at Red Schoolhouse Maple, as well as the volunteers from Oswego Industries weekend Respite group and local in-kind food donors.



Want to help?

Hold an Event!

Much like Camille in the story above, any individual or group can hold an event to raise funds and awareness for Arc of Oswego County. Third-party events offer the opportunity to create fun and creative programs to support Arc. The event can be held anywhere, at any time of the year. Does your workplace allow you to have Dress-Down days? Thinking about hosting a trivia night or a spaghetti dinner? Want to plan a birthday or poker party or a motorcycle run? All of these ideas make GREAT third-party events! We will help you promote your event through social media, press releases and on our website. We are happy to accept your donation with a check presentation or you can simply make your donation online using PayPal.

Contact kpitsley@oswegoind.org and start organizing your event today!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Reflecting on the many accomplishments of 2016, encourages me looking forward into 2017. Certainly one of the biggest achievements for the Arc of Oswego County was the Accreditation awarded by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). This designation was the result of much hard work by our very dedicated staff along with the help of those individuals that we serve.

As I always encourage all members of the Arc of Oswego County to enlist new members whenever possible, I would also like to have ALL members as well as families and guardians of individuals we serve, come out and take part in the many events that the Arc and our sister agency, Oswego Industries sponsor each year. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet staff, individuals and board members, and also have a lot of fun as a result! As an agency we need as much input and assistance from members and the community as possible.

Our "It Matters to Me" campaign has met with some success but we need, as a group, to keep pressure on our legislative representatives to continue to meet our goals.

Thank you to all who made 2016 a success—I look forward to even more in 2017.

Rick Rima

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



NEEDS 2017 UPDATE...

"It Matters To Me, Too" -The grassroots advocacy campaign currently underway by the NYSARC, Inc. State Office and all of its Chapters reminds me of the collaborative efforts of our founders and our first Executive Director, Elizabeth Vaught that resulted in the existence of our Chapter and of Oswego Industries, Inc. I had the privilege to work with Mrs. Vaught prior to her retirement in 1999; it is now an honor for me to be named Executive Director. Our goals in 2016 are to continue to spread the message of the "It Matters To Me" campaign and advocate for support of the individuals that we serve, ultimately continuing the work that Mrs. Vaught began in 1969. I encourage you to visit our website and Facebook pages to learn more about the Arc of Oswego County, become a member and join us by saying "It Matters to Me, Too!"

Laurie Davis

"It



Matters To Me" video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnU4ui0pmwg>.

SAVE THE DATES

May 20th

Community Yard Sale
Oswego Industries
7 Morrill Place, Fulton
9am - 1pm

June 3rd

Arc/OI Friends and Family Golf
Tournament: 1:00pm
Battle Island

August 26th

Arc Membership Picnic
Noon - 3:00pm
Breitbeck Park, Oswego

September 15th

Flame Concert 6pm-8pm
Back to School Blast
Veterans Linear Park, Oswego

October 7th

5K Walk & Roll Run
9:00 AM
Hog Wild Jam & BBQ
10:00 AM
Oswego Industries
7 Morrill Place
Fulton, NY 13069

For further information
please contact:

Kate Pitsley
(315) 598-3108
kpitsley@oswegoind.org