

Oswego County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc.

ARC of Oswego County
7 Morrill Place
Fulton, NY 13069

Return Service Requested



NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #53
FULTON, NY

Look for the
Envelope tucked
inside this newsletter
to renew your
Membership, or to
become a member!

Together We Make A Difference

ARC SERVICES THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS SUPPORT

Parent Advocacy - Advocacy and training services for parents of children birth - age 8.

Senior Retirement Services - The Senior Day Habilitation Program is designed to provide adults age 55, who are living with a disability a rewarding and age appropriate alternative to program services.

Social Recreation and Respite - Provides a wide range of social and recreational options to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to learning new skills and how to participating in existing community activities.

Guardianship - Services are designed to assist families in obtaining guardianship, and providing consultation services to human services agencies; education; training workshops; and seminars.

Medicaid Service Coordination - Assistance in obtaining necessary services and supports that lead to successful lives in the community based on individual needs and desires. Specializing in services to the school ages population (ages 3-21.)

Family Support Services - Designed and developed to enhance a family's ability to provide in-home care to their Family member who is disabled. Assistance with eligibility determinations for Families & Caregivers.

ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Rima, President
Mary Ann Barbarino, Vice President
Doug Hudson, Treasurer
Michael Scaries, Secretary

Carol Alfieri	John Comerford	Rosa Kemmis
Baiba Pierce	Robin Rosenbaum	Brian Sawyer
	Holly Whiting	

ARC of Oswego County
7 Morrill Place, Fulton, NY 13069

www.arcofoswegocounty.org 315-598-3108

Are you interested in receiving the newsletter via email? Please fill out the form below and mail it back with your membership dues and you will be added to the list. You may also register online.

Name: _____

Email: _____



Connections

Advocacy and Services for People with Disabilities

7 Morrill Place, Fulton, NY

Spring 2013

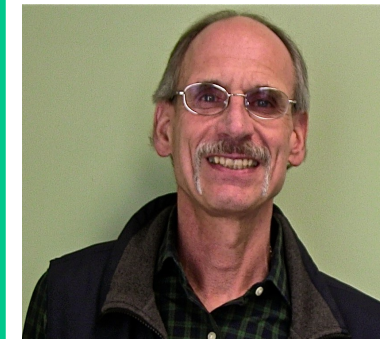
Vol. 12, No. 1

Who We Are:

ARC of Oswego County is a private, not-for-profit organization which has been providing programs and services to individuals with disabilities since 1955.

Our 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.

We are the Oswego County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. a New York State organization, and a member of The Arc, a national organization, both dedicated to the improvement of the lives of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families. Membership in ARC of Oswego County includes automatic membership in NYSARC and The Arc.



I'm sure most people are aware of impending New York State budget cuts that will negatively affect our agency.

So, rather look at all of the "doom and gloom" that may occur, I'd like to briefly point out some of the many positive things happening at the Arc of Oswego County.

We have a new Executive Director that appears to have breathed new life into the agency with the hiring of some new administrative staff as well as empowering existing staff with clearer job duties. Sure, there have been some changes, but currently, and hopefully in

the long run all for the better. The morale of the staff, as well as consumers, is the best I've experienced since being involved with ARC of Oswego County/Oswego Industries. I believe much of this stems from the active involvement of staff helping plan events and suggestions for work place improvements around the agency.

Also, coming soon, there are plans to change the way we recognize both consumers and employees for efforts appreciated and work well done.

I'm sure of the possible difficult times ahead, but I also feel safe with the knowledge that as an agency we can still succeed and can prosper. It may take some hard work and some changes, but we can do it. Memberships, donations and a prayer are always welcome.

The Oswego County Legislature's Human Services Committee recently presented a proclamation to the ARC of Oswego County, designating March as Development Disabilities Month. The proclamation celebrates the diversity and the efforts of dedicated individuals, volunteers, and providers who work tirelessly on their behalf.



Together We Make A Difference

A Message from the Executive Director—Mike Szpak



I am sure that many of you have heard by now that with the recently adopted 2013/2014 New York State Budget, funding to voluntary providers that support and serve individuals with De-

velopmental disabilities has been severely reduced.

Over the past few years, we have experienced continued reductions in state and local funding, as well as a decrease in manufacturing contracts. These funding decreases and increased standards and mandates from the state have required us to do more with less. The latest 4.5% reduction in funding from New York State severely impacts ARC of Oswego County, as well as our sister agency, Oswego Industries, as the reductions amount to a loss of over \$340,000 collectively.

In order to sustain our operations, we need to make changes in the way we do business without jeopardizing the Services we provide to our individuals with disabilities so that we can maintain a

stable and viable agency that will be here to serve your families for years to come.

The next several months, we will be reviewing all of our existing agency vendor contracts and will explore and identify areas that we can conceivably cut costs. For example, ending subcontract services for Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology will be slated to end by mid-April. We will also work with our transportation vendors in order to streamline contracts and services. This will result in adjustments to those individuals who utilize transportation services.

No doubt, these changes will create significant challenges for our families, but we will remain committed in providing quality services to the individuals we serve.

I thank you for your understanding and your commitment. Together we will proactively work to ensure that we continue to offer comprehensive programs and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities so that they can pursue their desired quality of life.

Out and About... Oswego County Autism Walk

On April 27, 2013, the Oswego County Autism Task Force sponsored the Oswego County Autism Walk to help raise awareness of Autism and the services available to the individuals. ARC of Oswego County participated in the day's event and was involved in a hands-on activity of bubble exploration. Thanks to Wal-Mart, 10 gallons of bubbles were donated for the event.



RESERVE THE DATE...

Oswego Industries 8th Annual Golf Open
Saturday, August 10th
Battle Island Golf Course, Fulton

OUR GREATEST ADVOCATES ARC OF OSWEGO COUNTY RALLIES IN ALBANY FOR OPWDD SERVICES



Together We Make A Difference

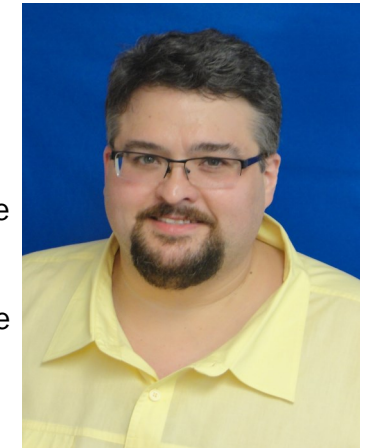
What Membership Means ... from the Committee

The theme of our 2013 Membership Campaign is the "SEA of Support".

As a member of the ARC of Oswego County, you help to support The **SERVICES** we provide. By sharing information about the ARC, the individuals we serve and the services we provide you are helping to **EDUCATE** others about the ARC of Oswego County, and your membership means we can show numbers to our elected officials. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice is as we **ADVOCATE** for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families as well as you our members when we tell our elected officials about the needs of the people we serve and what serves they and their families want in our community.

Over the past few years, you may have heard or read about proposed changes to the services we provide to individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their

families in our community. In New York State these changes are being discussed and decisions are being made as you read this. We need your help now more than ever as we advocate for the services people in our community want and need.



Mike Scaries

EVERY MEMBER COUNTS AND WE NEED EVERY MEMBER!

Please help us tell our elected officials what people in our community want by becoming a member of the ARC of Oswego County, today!

One of the most satisfying parts of working with all our ARC of Oswego friends is helping to engineer "first time" experiences for them. One of my fondest memories of this occurred during my second year as Coordinator of Recreation at our annual "ARC Camp-out".

Each year, we are afforded the opportunity of enjoying the beautiful grounds and lake at the Vander Kamp Center in Cleveland, NY. We traditionally take two groups of individuals for a camping experience that includes hiking, canoeing, singing by a camp fire, and partaking in outdoor activities while enjoying the fall colors. That year, we were joined by an elderly gentleman named Jim. Jim had worked as a janitor at a local school district most of his life and was enjoying retirement in his Pulaski home when he joined the group to go camping with us. He was enthralled with all aspects of camping and appreciative of our support in allowing him to enjoy what was offered.

During our final night at the camp, when we were reflecting on all of the happenings, Jim revealed to us that, during our stay at the camp, he had experienced his first camp fire, taken his first ever boat ride of any kind (he was able to pilot a canoe), and caught his first fish. Jim was excited by these new experiences, and we were just as excited to be able to play a vital role in his new experience and witness his enjoyment.

These moments of shared learning and fun are frequent in recreation, where we pride ourselves on building opportunities for folks to try out, or continue to enjoy, activities of all kinds.

K. Marc Warner
Coordinator of Recreation