ARISE (ARISE Child and Family Service), an Independent Living Center in Central New York, is a non-profit, community-based, non-residential organization run by and for people with disabilities.
OUR MISSION

ARISE’s mission is to work with people of all abilities to create a fair and just community and ultimately to end the need for our existence.

Our mission encompasses four key elements of the Independent Living Philosophy:

**Consumer Control.** We embody the concept of consumer control in ARISE’s governance and day-to-day management (a majority of our board of directors and staff are persons with disabilities), and consumers determine the services that they receive.

**Advocacy.** We assist persons with disabilities in advocating for their individual rights and seek to overcome “systems” or institutional barriers to individual freedoms that prevent persons with disabilities from fully participating in their communities.

**Civil Rights Orientation.** We assure that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected by law and enforced in practice.

**Cross-Disability Representation.** ARISE board members, staff, consumers, and volunteers are individuals who have all types of disabilities.

WHAT WE DO

ARISE acts as a catalyst for community change by promoting the social, educational, economic, and individual interests of people with disabilities. At locations in Onondaga, Oswego, and Madison Counties, we provide a wide range of programs and services to support individuals in realizing their potential and being fully participating members of their families and communities:

- Accessible Environment Services
- Adoption Services
- Assistive Technology
- Benefits Advisement
- Child Abuse Prevention Services
- Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Program
- Crisis Pregnancy Counseling
- Day and Residential Habilitation Services
- Design Consultation
- Domestic Violence Counseling
- Employee Assistance Program
- Employment Services
- Housing Services
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Individualized Support Services
- Information and Referral Services
- Integrated Recreation
- Medicaid Service Coordination
- Outpatient Mental Health Clinic
- Peer Counseling
- School-to-Work Transition Services
- Support Groups
- Universal Design Center
OUR HISTORY

ARISE was established in 1979 to advocate for access, choice, and self-determination for individuals with disabilities. Twenty years later, ARISE merged with Child and Family Service, an organization that in various forms had provided services to children, women, and families since 1878 and sought to lessen factors in society that undermine the well-being of individuals and families. This shared history between ARISE and Child and Family Service of advocating for positive societal changes formed a strong basis for collaboration, and as a result of the merger, ARISE Child and Family Service is one of the leading agencies addressing urgent human needs in Central New York.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 2003

Dale Fanning, President
Florence Cohen, Vice President
Dan Mohr, Treasurer
James Bertram, Secretary

Tania Anderson
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Joseph Snyder
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Ernie Wheeler
DEAR FRIENDS,

ARISE experienced dramatic growth in 2002, our 23rd year as an Independent Living Center serving Central New York communities. Our ARISE at the Farm corporation completed its fourth year of offering integrated recreational activities. The successful merger with Child and Family Service achieved a third-year milestone.

This report documents an ever-expanding array of services and supports. Our outreach became more extensive geographically. Services were developed in Madison County as well as Pulaski in Oswego County. We demonstrated more cultural competence as we supported migrant workers whose primary language is Spanish. We reached deeply into city school communities with our new mental health services.

ARISE showed its full commitment to “systems change,” addressing barriers that prevent the full integration of many persons. Our work with legislators in Onondaga County resulted in a groundbreaking adoption of visitability standards. Homes built with public funds will now have basic features allowing persons with mobility impairments to visit. Costs will be minimal because access is included at the design stage of each home. The ARISE impact on Central New York set a national standard.

We advocated for significant legislation in New York. We urged passage of a law that allows persons who have Medicaid insurance to pay premiums, permitting them to continue their necessary coverage while they increase their compensation from work. We fought for a bill that implements the Supreme Court *Olmstead* decision, supporting persons to live in “most integrated” rather than institutional settings.

The financial information provided demonstrates that ARISE is fiscally healthy. The consolidated corporations of ARISE grew by $1 million from the previous year. We used a significant portion of our net assets, in coordination with funding from other substantial partners, to complete a major indoor riding arena for ARISE at the Farm, thus allowing our horses to be ridden in comfort all year long.

ARISE has many sources of funding, adding to our overall diversity. We have an excellent team of managers to assure that we are providing the highest quality services, in a condition of organizational competence. We continue to be governed and staffed by a majority of persons who themselves have disabilities.

In this report, we have for the first time listed the names of all our volunteers. We are grateful to the hundreds of individuals who strengthen the full range of ARISE services through contributions of time, talent, and funds.

We want to express particular appreciation for the work of Melissa Hall Glisson. Melissa was the ARISE Executive Director for much of 2002. She guided the organization through the merger with Child and Family Service and accepted the wonderful donation of the Farm from Doctor Jim Marshall. Melissa’s work planted the seeds for the developments that took place during the remainder of 2002.

ARISE is poised for further growth in 2003. Our services are in demand. Our style of support is consistent with the expressed interests of our consumers. We are strengthened by a host of supporters. We commit ourselves to further work of promoting independent living, sensitive to persons, families, neighborhoods, and communities in Central New York.

Tom McKeown Dale Fanning
Executive Director President, Board of Directors
ARISE's mission is to work with people of all abilities to create a fair and just community...
Introducing New Educational Opportunities

Our Clinical Department presented two unique educational offerings in 2002. We invited David Hingsburger, a renowned consultant who provides direct service to persons with developmental disabilities, to discuss behavior analysis and developing strategic interventions. More than 21 human service workers and parents and 60 ARISE staff members attended the sessions sponsored by the Central New York Developmental Services Office. We also invited Francesca Muscati, who has worked in the field of child welfare for 27 years, to present “Becoming a Love and Logic Parent.” This workshop, sponsored by the Salvation Army Adoption Resource Center, taught 25 foster and adoptive parents to set limits in a loving way and treat childhood misbehavior as an opportunity to gain wisdom.

A Longer STEP Broadens Protection

ARISE’s Outpatient Mental Health Clinic has enhanced its STEP (Supporting, Teaching, Empowering Parents) to Protect program, which provides information and therapeutic support to parents and caregivers whose children have been or are at risk of being sexually abused. In response to increased demand, we expanded the program to 20 weeks in 2002. The weekly meetings offer information to help parents learn about the risk factors of childhood sexual abuse, how to deal with the issue if it arises, and ways to develop a plan for future safety.

Making a Difference with Migrant Workers

Headed by Yolanda Asencio, ARISE’s Migrant Drop-In Center in Oswego served more than 100 migrant workers in 2002. Asencio, whose primary language is Spanish, translates and advocates for workers who encounter cultural barriers in accessing services. The Center offers many opportunities for recreation, such as dancing and playing dominoes, and food from workers’ native countries.
LINKing with Schools

ARISE, Syracuse City School District, and Onondaga County Department of Mental Health initiated the LINK (Leading, Integrating, Networking for Kids) @ Shea program at Shea Middle School in 2002. This innovative initiative offers mental health supports right in the school to children who have persistent behavior problems or who have experienced a crisis that affects their well-being and school performance. More than 80 children and families participated in LINK @ Shea during the year, and ARISE plans to expand its school-based mental health efforts in 2003.

LINKing to the Outdoors

To engage children in the LINK @ Shea program during summer vacation, we developed a therapeutic summer day camp at ARISE at the Farm in rural Chittenango with funding from Onondaga County Department of Mental Health. The four-week outdoor curriculum featured community-building games, horseback riding, animal care, and fishing to encourage more than 20 children to cooperate, build trusting relationships, and increase self-esteem.

Shining STARS

Our STARS (Supporting Transition for At-Risk Students) program completed its successful first year in November 2002. STARS helps to address a critical need for comprehensive school-to-work transition services for youths aged 14-21 who have disabilities and are at risk of adulthood unemployment. This past year, STARS offered 40 youths a range of supports and activities to enhance their vocational, educational, and social development and increase opportunities to live independently, learn, and earn beyond their high school years.

New Madison County Pilot Project Takes Off

ARISE began providing day and residential habilitation services in 2002 as part of a collaborative pilot project that is the first of its kind in Madison County. This comprehensive project addresses the unique needs and interests of two young women who want to explore opportunities for educational, vocational, and community participation. Our community integration specialists offer instruction and support to help the women reach their goals of living independently and obtaining employment.

Each Day to Its Fullest

In January 2002, ARISE began providing day habilitation services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Onondaga County. The program offers opportunities for community integration, volunteerism, independent living skills development, and social and recreational activities while providing supports and promoting consumer choice.
ARISE staff and consumers work tirelessly to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected in the community.

Beata Karpinska-Prehn, Advocacy Department Director

New Law Makes New Homes More Accessible
In 2002, the Onondaga County Legislature passed a “visitability” resolution. Sponsored by Legislator Kathleen Rapp, this resolution requires all new single-family homes and duplexes built with government funds to include improved-access features such as one no-step entrance and a bathroom, kitchen, and hallways on the first floor with enough clearance for a wheelchair. This represents a great victory for persons with mobility issues as well as for advocates, including ARISE staff, the Consumer Council, and the Equal Access Task Force, who pushed for the change.

Ramping Up for More Modifications
ARISE’s Home Access Program, which has improved the quality of life for low-income Syracuse residents with disabilities by providing home access improvements for over 16 years, began offering minor interior access modifications in 2002. These modifications will not only boost health, safety, and independence within the home, they also will increase residents’ participation in the community. In addition, we started purchasing reusable ramps that have the potential, once installed, to be moved and reused at another site.

Reaching Out to Rural Needs
In 2002, ARISE established an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to work with low-income households in rural areas to prepare and submit applications for single family home purchase loans or home modification loans and grants. Home modification financing can be used for making a home accessible to a person with a disability or for substantial home repairs. Once loans and grants are approved, ARISE offers design services to help with the process.

SHAPEing Up Mall Parking
ARISE staff, consumers, and other advocates on the Equal Access Task Force met with officials from the Syracuse Police Department, Onondaga County Sheriff’s Department, and Carousel Mall in 2002 to ensure the availability of accessible parking at the mall. They agreed to allow volunteers in the Sheriff’s Handicapped Ambulatory Parking Enforcement (SHAPE) team to write parking tickets at the mall. Also, some mall security guards were deputized as SHAPE team members so they can write tickets.

Making the State Fair Even Greater
ARISE staff, the Consumer Council, and the Equal Access Task Force met with State Fair Director Peter Cappucilli in 2002 to advocate for increased access to the event. Cappucilli committed to several improvements for the 2003 Fair, including an increased number of accessible trams, better signage for accessible entrances and restrooms, improved access to the Indian Village, and stricter enforcement of accessible parking laws.
Medicaid Milestone

In a major victory for people with disabilities in New York State, the State Senate and Assembly passed Medicaid Buy-In legislation in 2002. ARISE staff and consumers supported this move, which allows people with disabilities to increase their incomes through employment and continue to receive Medicaid health insurance benefits by paying a premium. Advocates need to keep a watchful eye on this process to ensure full and swift implementation of the law.

Greater Control Over Personal Care

The Consumer-Directed Personal Care Assistance Program (CDPAP) opened for business at ARISE’s Syracuse office in 2002. ARISE’s office in Oswego has offered CDPAP since 1998, and it has been a great success at that location. The program offers qualified persons with disabilities the opportunity to gain greater independence in their lives, making more choices affecting their own lifestyle and personal care needs.

Growing New Employment Opportunities

In 2002, our efforts for the Supported Employment Program, which operates in Onondaga and Oswego Counties, were highlighted in a national floral magazine, Flowers&. An ARISE employment consultant worked with a consumer who loves flowers to secure work at a local floral shop; the Flowers& article used this example to highlight people with disabilities as dependable, hard-working employees and to show the importance of ARISE’s on-site job coaching support in ensuring a smooth transition to the workplace. This success story is one of many for our employment programs in 2002, which also provided services to non-custodial parents (Parent Success Initiative and Bright Futures program) and to people with a history of substance abuse (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services program).

Special Training on Special Education Laws

ARISE staff in Oswego developed a manual that explains the special education laws and process in 2002. We also began training parents and advocates on the manual at interactive, facilitated workshops designed to empower parents to effectively advocate for their children who participate in special education. ARISE will continue to offer workshops in 2003.

Increasing Independence at Home and in the Community

In 2002, we assisted 118 persons with a developmental disability or traumatic brain injury—a 53% increase from last year—with coordinating services and supports that enhance independent living.
UNIQUE brings to light the struggles and capabilities of people with disabilities and inspires ethical treatment for all.

Acela Soler-Figueroa, UNIQUE Editor and Director of Medicaid Service Coordination

Highlighting UNIQUE Talents
UNIQUE is a literary and arts magazine published annually by ARISE to showcase the artistic talents of people with disabilities in Central New York. More than 70 contributing artists, their families, and community members gathered at the Onondaga County Public Library to celebrate UNIQUE’s 2002 publication. The event featured many inspiring artwork displays and readings by contributing writers.

World Record Works To Add Ramps
After training over the entire summer, Robert Hensel set a Guinness World Record in October 2002 for the longest wheelie in a wheelchair (over two hours and 6.2 miles around an indoor track). Dozens of family, friends, and other spectators cheered on Hensel as he used this feat to highlight Oswego County’s critical need for residential wheelchair ramps to increase home access for persons with disabilities. His impressive effort raised $800 for ramps in the county.

New Arena Enables Equine Expansion
ARISE at the Farm’s facility improvements in 2002 helped to increase the capacity of our recreational programs. We completed the construction of our 10,000-square-foot indoor riding arena, adding accessible bathrooms and an observation room. With this new facility, we began offering adaptive riding programs year-round, without canceling any sessions due to inclement weather as was necessary in previous years. Five staff members attended hippotherapy training to increase their skills in using horseback riding with consumers for therapeutic purposes.

Climbing Higher with “Project Adventure”
In 2002, we completed the installation of an outdoor Project Adventure Ropes Course at ARISE at the Farm. The only accessible course of its kind available locally, the ropes course and related games and activities offer recreational, therapeutic, and educational opportunities for developing skills such as team building and problem solving. Also in 2002, several ARISE staff members participated in specialized training on adventure-based programming and the use of the ropes course.

Summer Camps Heat Up
Our Summer Fun on the Farm program completed another successful year in 2002. Ninety-six youths participated in camp sessions, representing a 53% increase in enrollment from 2001. Youths enjoyed integrated recreational and educational activities such as adaptive horseback riding and cycling and visiting farm animals in the “Critter Corral.” We also worked with a more diverse group of persons, including youths in a school-based mental health program and youths who were recently adopted.
Thank you to all of our volunteers in 2002 who offered their time and talents to ARISE programs at locations in Onondaga, Oswego, and Madison Counties to make our community better for everyone. Whether they are offering skiing instruction, advocating for important legislation, or performing administrative tasks at our offices, individual volunteers help ARISE accomplish all that we do. We also recognize the important volunteer efforts of our board members, staff, and local companies. Thank you, volunteers, for an outstanding year of service!

Individual Volunteers

Bruce Clark
Courtney Clark
Brian Connolly
Mary Corgan
Mike Cook
Nikki Cook
Shannon Cook
David Cooper
Jeff Corbett
Amanda Corp
Matthew Costett
Elaune Crouch
Frank Cutie
Matthew Daday
Amie D’Agostino
Amy D’Angelo
Donna Decker
Jessica Desimone
Jonathan Desimone
Louis Desimone
Roger DeVore
Anne Marie Donnan
Richelle Dorin
Kyle Drypolcher
Hanna Dubsanski
David Edem
Ashley Elwell
Audrey Elwell
Brian Elwell
Carol Fear
Scott Filczkowski
John Fischer
Mitchell Fiss
Tina Fitzgerald
Jim Fleckenstein
Gino Franchini
Mark Freeman
Marc Fuller
Dan Gardner
Rich Gardner
Rachel Geoller
Susan George
Tim George
Mary Lou Ghezzi
Karen Gillette
Chris Glisson
Dan Glisson
Jamie Glisson
Kevin Glisson
Patty Glisson
Lance Gonzalez
Tysen Gotman
Hannah Grajko
Tom Grajko

Frank Graziano
Katherine Greene
Bob Greiner
Kristen Greiner
Mandy Gugliotti
Anthony Gumina
Amanda Hackett
Lana Hall
Beverly Hamilton
Wayne Hamilton
Jeanne Hansen
Lucy Harrison
Nia Harrison
Caitlin Hartigan
Carrie Hartigan
Amy Hensel
Robert Hensel
Leigh Hulenberg
Emily Hill
Jeremy Hollender
Howard Hollander
John Hollander
Eleanor Holz-Eakon
Wendy Horning
Joanne Howard
Bran Hubbard
Jacqueline Hubbard

Sara Ingerson
John Isler
Marie Jacobellis
Lisa Jaeger
Laurie Janson
Matt Janson
Amanda Jarvis
Amy Jorgazewski
Laurie Jones
Kim Jordan
Buffy Kane
Edwin Kelley, Jr.
Nora Kelley
Anne Kelso
Susan Key
Jennifer King
Judy King
Eric Kurzsteiner
Alice Larkin
Conrad Lauer
Jessica Lauer
David Lee
Kathy Lefand
Simone Lepine
Alexandra Lewis
Mike Lewis
Art Louer
Jessica Louer

Robert Lurette
Ryan MacConnell
Sharon Mack
Lisa Maestri
Sherry Marino
Matt Mastrolia
Katrina McClister
Emily Menapace
Tracy Menapace
Lindsay Mitchell
Cindy Morey
Megan Morris
Tom Mosley
Theresa Myers
Julie Nash
Heather Neleovitz
Darlene O’Brien
Beverly O’Neal
Luke Orner
Rebecca Ovissi
Lauren Papadou
Chryss Parker
Samantha Pauli
Jim Pelligri
John Pike
Denise Powers
Judy Pratt

Karen Pullen
Roger Pullen
Matt Racelli
Zackery Revette
Kevan Robinson
Honesty Rohrer
Tina Romaine
Elyssa Rosenbaum
Gloria Rossi
Andrea Robin
Tracy Rubin
Andy Rutz
Pam St. Germain
Monica Sawedoff
Jim Scartabini
Rebecca Schillo
Chris Schoomaker
Russell Schreiber
Jim Shaw
Jim Shields
Sue Sindoni
Patty Smith
Robyn Smith
Kate Sparling
David Stobnicz
Catherine Stratton
Kathy Sullivan
Michael Swarts
Ed Tarcz
Sue Tassone
Robert Thomas
Nicah Thompson
Chris Parker
Samantha Pauli
Jim Pelligri
John Pike
Denise Powers
Judy Pratt

Guy Treglia, Jr.
Karlo Treglia
Michael Treglia
Lisa Turki
Beth Underwood
Jessica Underwood
Matt Ural
Frank Vair
Paul Vair
William Vair
Sharon Valenti
Jena Valetta
Jason VanAlstyne
Mark Volmes
Paul Vavone
Michael Von Hendy
Nancy Wedeligh
Tom Wallace
Margaret Wason
Christopher Weiss
Christine Welker
Peter Welker
Linda Whalen
Cassy Wile
Jim Williams
Tim Woodward
Carolyn Zettel
Debbie Zohler
Lauren Zohier
Guy Treglia
CONTRIBUTORS

ARISE is grateful to the many companies, charitable organizations, and government agencies that provided financial and in-kind support in 2002. These contributions have helped ARISE to move closer to the goal of creating a fully accessible and integrated community. We also thank the many generous individual donors in 2002, who made our services possible.

Corporations
- Cazenovia Equipment
- Cooper Industries, Crouse-Hinds Division
- Doug’s Fish Fry
- Equine & Pine
- Esengard’s Heritage Homes
- IBM
- Lincoln Life & Annuity Company of New York
- Marjorie D. Kienzle Foundation, Inc.
- Merrill Lynch
- Nice N Easy Grocery Shoppes
- P&C Foods
- Pioneer Management Service Company
- Power Federal Credit Union
- Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet, PC
- Toggenburg Ski Center
- USEE Builders

Charitable Sources
- Canastota Community Chest, Inc.
- Central New York Community Foundation, Inc.
- Food Bank of Central New York
- National Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Resource Council for Independent Living
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York
- Syracuse Rotary Foundation, Inc.
- Town of Manlius Police Benevolent Association
- United Way of Central New York, Inc.
- United Way of Greater Oswego County, Inc.
- Verizon Foundation

Government Sources
- Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse and Onondaga County, Inc.
- Onondaga County Community Development Department
- Onondaga County Department of Mental Health
- Onondaga County Department of Social Services

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HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT ARISE

Your contribution to ARISE is more than just a donation – with it, you are joining a partnership working together to ensure that all persons have the right to realize their potential and to live full and independent lives of their choosing. There are many ways that you can support ARISE: you can contribute your time as a volunteer, offer cash or in-kind gifts, or support the relocation of ARISE’s headquarters to a new Onondaga County site in fall 2003.

For information on volunteer opportunities, please call our Director of Human Resources at (315) 472-3171. You can mail contributions to the following address: ARISE, 1056 James Street, Syracuse, New York 13203. We also welcome contributions on our secure website: www.ariseinc.org.
FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2002 (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002)

PROGRAM REVENUES
- Program revenues: $1,934,000
- Grant revenues: $1,911,000
- United Way of CNY: $321,000
- Donations: $161,000
- Fundraising: $3,000
- Interest & miscellaneous: $2,000

TOTAL REVENUE: $4,332,000

REVENUE
- Clinic services: $983,000
- Oswego operations: $837,000
- Employment services: $796,000
- Support services: $441,000
- Advocacy services: $287,000
- Technology services: $249,000
- ARISE at the Farm: $239,000
- General & administrative services: $660,000

TOTAL EXPENSES: $4,492,000

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: ($160,000)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS
- Current assets: $702,000
- Property: $765,000

TOTAL ASSETS: $1,467,000

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
- Current liabilities: $643,000
- Net assets: $824,000

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: $1,467,000

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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Pulaski, New York 13142
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Report Offered in Alternative Formats
Portions of any ARISE publication designed for distribution can be made available in a variety of formats—including Braille, large print, or audiotape—upon request. For publications in an alternative format, please contact our Information and Referral Specialist at (315) 472-3171, extension 163.