ARISE (ARISE Child and Family Service, Inc.), an Independent Living Center in Central New York, is a non-profit, community-based, non-residential organization run by and for people with disabilities. 200
ARISE’s mission is to work with people of all abilities to create a fair and just community in which everyone can fully participate.

**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.
Affordable housing is a necessity, not an option.
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 1999 merger, ARISE Child and Family Service, Inc. (d/b/a ARISE) is one of the leading agencies addressing urgent human needs in Central New York.

ARISE at the Farm began in 1998 with the donation of an 84-acre horse farm in Chittenango, New York. ARISE at the Farm was incorporated as a separate 501(c)3 organization in 1998, and, since that time, has become an integrated, accessible recreational facility serving Central New York.
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
- Accessibility and Technology Resource Center
- 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
- Mental Health Services
- Peer Counseling
- Support Groups
- Transition Services for At-Risk Youths
A Message to Our Friends

ARISE’s mission is to work with people of all abilities to create a fair and just community…

Location, location, location.
That’s the typical mantra in real estate, simplifying how we think about the value of a property. It is also a major part of the ARISE story for 2003.

We moved to new locations in both Onondaga and Oswego Counties, and established ourselves at a new site in Madison County.

In Onondaga County, we completed work on our first purchased home in Syracuse. We packed our belongings at 1065 James Street and moved out on New Year’s Eve. We also transferred programs formerly using donated space on Wilbur Avenue. We opened for business at 635 James Street as 2004 dawned.

ARISE consumers and staff influenced the design of our new office and program space. The result is delightful and, of course, fully accessible, for all who work and visit.

Our Oswego County team moved in June 2003 from West Utica Street to 253 East 10th Street. The new location allowed us to combine activities spread over two buildings on West Utica to the one on East 10th. No more trekking outside in the winter to connect with other ARISE colleagues!

We “pitched our tent” in Madison County during 2003. We already had an established presence at ARISE at the Farm. While we have provided some other services for a number of years, in 2003, we joined with other agencies by sharing space at a “One-Stop” center for employment services in Oneida.

Our pioneer in program expansion in Madison County was Kristin Jones. At the time of this writing in 2004, we are grieving with the news of the untimely death of this dedicated ARISE advocate. We are sure that the seeds she planted in Madison County will bear fruit in years to come.

ARISE’s financial results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003 reflect the strength of the programs and services we offer. Total revenue was $5.4 million, an increase of approximately $1 million over fiscal year 2002. Total expenses of the agency increased by a similar amount, reflecting the direct cost of meeting the higher demand from our consumers. Our net assets remained strong as of June 30, 2003, at $818,000. Our independent auditors affirmed the integrity of our internal control structure, making no recommendations for changes.

Our administrative health was affirmed by the diligence of our compliance program for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). We added talent to our Human Resources department, and re-aligned our Finance Department. Our Information Systems staff faced the relocation challenges with finesse and excellent results.

Major program accomplishments will be described throughout this report.

Location is but one of the themes of 2003. The deeper values of ARISE are accomplished by the dedicated input of our consumers, their families, our staff and many volunteers, our funding source partners and fellow advocates. Location provides the setting; our strength continues to be in our people.

Tom McKeown
Executive Director

Dan Mohr
President, Board of Directors
Expanding Outreach Through New Locations

New Syracuse Main Office Allows Greater Access, Availability
Completing a move begun in late 2003, ARISE’s Onondaga County-based operations are now housed at 635 James Street in Syracuse, a central, convenient one-stop location for community members. Two ARISE programs—Medicaid Service Coordination and Day Habilitation—that were temporarily located at the CNY Developmental Disabilities Services Offices because of space constraints at our former building are now reunited with other ARISE programs in our expanded facility. The new building features a variety of innovative products and designs that can increase the independence of people with disabilities both at work and at home. A state-of-the-art Accessibility and Technology Resource Center, made possible through generous funding from the CNY Community Foundation’s John F. Marsellus Fund, offers the rare opportunity for visitors to sample and evaluate design options.

New Oswego Office Reaches Many More
In June 2003, ARISE’s Oswego Satellite Office moved to 253 East Tenth Street on the east side of the city. Conveniently located on a Centro bus route, this new location offers greater space to accommodate a growing new staff, which now works together under one roof to benefit the individuals we serve. An expanded conference room offers improved accommodations for meetings and training sessions.

Doing More In Madison County
ARISE also opened a Madison County Extension Site in June 2003, based at the county’s One-Stop Career Center in Oneida, Working Solutions. This site gives individuals with disabilities in the area more options for services. In addition, the ARISE staff has developed partnerships with Cazenovia College, at which Day Habilitation participants audited courses, and Morrisville State College, where we offer information and referral services. Our staff also conducts disability awareness training at the One-Stop and local businesses.

Together, we will make a difference. We will end isolation. We will gain opportunities to live independently in the communities of our choice.

Sabine Ingerson, Director of ARISE’s Oswego Office
Enhancing Community-Based Services

Expanding School-Based Mental Health Services

Through a collaboration with Syracuse Community Health Center, two ARISE mental health clinics were certified in February 2003 at Dr. Weeks and Dr. King Elementary Schools. These clinics joined with successful ARISE services at Shea Middle School. Having a clinical social worker at each site enables ARISE to become fully integrated into the school system. ARISE provides individual, family, and group therapy; referrals for psychiatric services including medications; and case management to assist in resolving issues that impair a child’s ability to succeed at school. We serve approximately 40 children and their families at each school through this innovative effort.

The Beat Goes On

Walk down the halls of Shea Middle School on a Wednesday afternoon and you may hear sounds of drums and other rhythm instruments being played. Initiated in March 2003 by Cynthia Ackles, an ARISE Clinical Social Worker who has a passion for music and experience as a music teacher, the LINK @ Shea Drumming Group meets weekly during the school year. This innovative program helps students, including those who experience depression, anxiety, and adjustment disorders, enhance their capacity for concentration, listening, empathy, and the safe expression of emotions.

Service Coordination Program Continues Growth

ARISE helped an increasing number of adults and children who have mental retardation and developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries achieve their goals for independent living in 2003. Through our Medicaid Service Coordination program, we served approximately 125 people in Onondaga County, 104 in Oswego County, and 20 in Madison County. Program staff assisted individuals in moving into their own apartments, buying homes, attending college, and becoming strong self-advocates.

New Oswego Offering For Children

In 2003, ARISE and Little Luke’s Childcare Center in Oswego began providing a unique social and educational experience for children ages 3 to 10 with disabilities and their families. The program offers parents the opportunity to meet monthly to interact and learn about topics related to their children, while the children participate in a playgroup supervised by specially trained staff.

My children look forward to going to Little Luke’s Playgroup. As a parent, it is a great opportunity to network with others and learn about new ideas.

Lisa Seguin, parent of a child participating in Little Luke’s Playgroup
New Homes Now More Accessible
In January 2003, a resolution passed, requiring all new single family homes and duplexes built with government funds in Syracuse to be constructed with accessible features. These features, such as a 36-inch doorway, ensure that habitable spaces on the main floor of a residence are accessible to people who have disabilities. Syracuse Common Councilor Van Robinson sponsored the resolution, which closely followed the November 2002 passage of a visitability resolution, sponsored by Legislator Kathleen Rapp, by the Onondaga County Legislature. These changes were supported by local advocates—including ARISE staff, the Consumer Council, and the Equal Access Task Force—and represent a big step forward in making housing more accessible for everyone.

Opening Opportunities in Oswego
The City of Oswego is becoming more accessible, thanks to the collective voice of many North Country ARISE consumers. ARISE peer advocate Frank Graziano began contacting Oswego Mayor John Gosek’s administration in early 2003 to discuss accessibility issues on certain streets, curbs, and corners of downtown Oswego. ARISE later reached out to the Oswego community for input at the Accessibility Task Force. These suggestions were well received by Mayor Gosek, who began working to implement the changes. We look forward to continued progress in this area.

Technology Department Tackles Many Needs
The ARISE Technology Department continued to provide home access improvements—including ramps—in 2003 for low-income Syracuse residents with disabilities through the long standing Home Access Program. In addition, the department provided design and funding source coordination through three separate Medicaid Waiver programs, USDA loans, and an Oswego County volunteer effort. Our expertise in environmental modifications also reached the commercial sector through trainings, assessments, general information, and referrals.

Students “Miss-A-Meal” to Feed Funds for Ramps
In November 2003, over 1,000 State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego students skipped a meal to support the construction of residential ramps for people who use wheelchairs. The SUNY Oswego Student Association chose ARISE as the 2003 beneficiary of the school’s fall semester Miss-A-Meal Plan. A total of $5,446 saved on one day’s meals was donated by the university’s Auxiliary Services department to fund the construction of ramps in Oswego County.

Despite many positive changes this year, people with disabilities continue to face obstacles to living in the community. Local advocates work every day to make positive changes happen.

Beata Karpinska-Prehn, Advocacy Department Director
In D.C. to Promote Community-Based Care

In May 2003, members of ARISE’s staff and local activists traveled to Washington, D.C. to join ADAPT, a national activist group dedicated to de-institutionalization of long-term care services. We participated in a week of protests to fight for the passage of MiCASSA, sweeping legislation that would shift more federal funds from supporting institutional care to home care and community-based services. ARISE continues to advocate for this change at the federal level with Congressman Walsh, who has been supportive of the issue.

A Voice for Voters of All Abilities

In 2003, ARISE staff and consumers advocated for the removal of the full-face ballot requirement from NYS election law, which requires that all candidates be shown on a single page. The print on the full-face ballots is small and the information can be overwhelming to many voters. Also, pull levers in current voting machines are difficult to reach. These machines have prevented many voters with mobility issues, cognitive disabilities, and low vision from casting an independent and private vote. On July 26, 2003, the 13th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ARISE consumers and staff organized a Disability Awareness Fair at Carousel Mall that displayed new, more accessible voting machines to the public. These machines also were displayed at the Harborfest event in Oswego.

Advocacy Matters In Print

This monthly ARISE publication, which was created in 2003, strives to inform the community of a variety of disability-related advocacy issues and to encourage participation in ARISE events and task forces. It includes updates on legislative activities as well as action alerts to contact legislators on issues that affect people with disabilities. Advocacy Matters is mailed to ARISE consumers and advocates who have attended Equal Access Task Force or Consumer Council meetings.

Extending Employment Efforts

In 2003, ARISE’s Employment Department continued to assist individuals with disabilities in their search for competitive and rewarding employment. Our Supported Employment Program successfully secured its projected number of job placements in both our Oswego and Onondaga County offices. Employment services also were extended in two programs serving non-custodial parents and to a separate Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services program.

We fought the nursing homes. Money is going to nursing homes, not people. People are angry about it.

John Pike, ARISE advocate and participant in ARISE’s May 2003 trip to Washington, D.C.
Celebrating UNIQUE Talents

UNIQUE truly is a unique endeavor in Central New York—the only magazine of its kind featuring creative work by people with disabilities. More than 50 artists contributed to UNIQUE in 2003, either through individual or collaborative efforts, representing the largest number of artists featured in the publication to date. ARISE celebrated UNIQUE’s publication in 2003 with a reception for contributing artists, their family and friends, and other community members. The event in downtown Syracuse, which approximately 75 people attended, featured inspiring presentations of artists’ visual and literary works. For the first time, we also held a UNIQUE event in Oswego; 30 people attended this celebration.

Integrated Recreation On the Rise

ARISE at the Farm activities continued to grow in 2003. Equine programs expanded, with 62 people taking part in horsemanship camps, 61 receiving horseback riding lessons, and 83 joining our adaptive, therapeutic horseback riding program. Several hundred people with and without disabilities participated in our integrated summer camps. School groups are making the Farm a site for frequent, educational field trips, and more families are visiting the Farm to use bicycles, see the animals, and enjoy the facility. 2003 also marked ARISE & Ski’s eighth season at Toggenburg Ski Center. Supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, 57 skiers participated last winter. ARISE & Ski lent adaptive equipment to the Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged, in which four local skiers won medals.

Mental Health Needs Targeted

In summer 2003, ARISE expanded therapeutic recreation for children receiving mental health services at our school-based sites. ARISE at the Farm hosted special day camp programs for students from Shea Middle School, Dr. Weeks Elementary School, and Dr. King Elementary School. These camps were designed to use the Farm’s unique resources to assist students in developing coping skills needed to be successful in school and in relationships with family and peers. Activities included riding bikes, horseback riding, caring for animals, using the Project Adventure Ropes Course, and fishing.

Casting a Wider Net

ARISE & Fish, one of the only accessible, adaptive fishing programs in Central New York that welcomes people with and without disabilities, was launched in spring 2003. Administered by ARISE at the Farm and co-founded by Darryl Storie and Sean Sauda, this program provides education, training, and hands-on fishing for individuals of all abilities. We use both standard and adaptive fishing equipment and fish aboard our accessible boat, called Advantage Energy, Inc.
Thank you to all of our volunteers in 2003 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 advocating for important legislation, offering horseback riding instruction, or performing administrative tasks at our offices, individual volunteers help ARISE accomplish all that we do. We also recognize the important volunteer efforts of ARISE board members and staff. Thank you, volunteers, for an outstanding year of service!
Contributors

ARISE is grateful to the many companies, charitable organizations, and government agencies that provided financial and in-kind support in 2003. These contributions have helped ARISE to move closer to the goal of creating a community in which people of all abilities can fully participate. We also thank the many generous individual donors in 2003 who made our services possible.

Corporations
Advance Cycle
Advantage Energy, Inc.
Bond, Schoeneck & King
Buyea's True Value
CABLExpress Technologies
Carrier Workers' Union
Eastern Security Systems
Green & Seifter, Attorneys
IKON
Jack's Turf Goods
J.C. Smith, Inc.
Logos Plus
P&C Foods
R.C. Congel, Inc.
Red Apple, Inc.
SIGN-A-RAMA
Target
Testone, Marshall & Discenza
Toggenburg Ski Center
Wegmans
Welch Allyn

Charitable Sources
Canastota Community Chest
Central New York Community Foundation, Inc.,
John F. Marsellas Fund
Lake City Masonic Lodge #127
MONY Foundation
Syracuse Corvette Club, Inc.
United Automobile-Aerospace-Agricultural Implement Workers of America
United Way of Central New York, Inc.
United Way of Greater Oswego County, Inc.
William T. Grant Foundation
Women of the Moose, Syracuse

Government Sources
Central New York Community Arts Council, Inc., New York State Council on the Arts, Decentralization Grant Program
City of Syracuse Department of Community Development
CNY Works, Inc.
Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse and Onondaga County, Inc., Senator John DeFrancisco Arts and Cultural Program and New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Grant Program
Greater Syracuse Works
New York State Department of Education, Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities
New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
New York State Office of Mental Health
New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities,
Central New York Developmental Services Office
Onondaga County Community Development Department
Onondaga County Department of Mental Health
Onondaga County Department of Social Services
Onondaga County Sheriff's Department
State University of New York at Oswego, Auxiliary Services
Syracuse Community Health Center
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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 events such as ARISE’s 2004 Conference.

For information on volunteer opportunities, please call Karen Lynch, Director of Human Resources, at (315) 671-2966. You can mail contributions to the following address: ARISE, 635 James Street, Syracuse, New York 13203. We also welcome contributions on our secure website: www.ariseinc.org.
# Financial Report

**FISCAL YEAR 2003 (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003)**

## Statement of Financial Position

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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,943,523</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<td>Long-term debt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,943,523</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Statement of Activities

### Revenue

- Program revenues: $2,942,364
- Grant revenues: $2,151,571
- United Way of CNY: $155,256
- Donations: $122,289
- Other Income: $10,780

**TOTAL REVENUE** $5,382,260

### Expenses

- Support services: $1,696,753
- Oswego operations: $1,105,177
- Clinic services: $1,011,194
- Employment services: $701,969
- Technology services: $332,025
- ARISE at the Farm: $316,874
- Advocacy services: $151,363
- General & administrative services: $73,430

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $5,388,785

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** $(6,525)
ARISE Main Office and Onondaga County Office
635 James Street
Syracuse, New York 13203
Phone: (315) 472-3171
TTY (315) 479-6363

Oswego County Office
253 East Tenth Street
Oswego, New York 13126
Phone: (315) 342-4088
TTY: (315) 342-8696

ARISE at the Farm
1972 New Boston Road
Chittenango, New York 13037
Phone: (315) 687-6727

Madison County Office
1006 Oneida Plaza Drive
Oneida, NY 13421
Phone: (315) 363-2400

www.ariseinc.org

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.