The Post-Standard, photographer Dick Blume
ARISE’S MISSION IS TO WORK WITH PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES TO CREATE A FAIR AND JUST COMMUNITY IN WHICH EVERYONE CAN FULLY PARTICIPATE.
ARISE celebrated a milestone in 2004, as we recognized our 25th anniversary. I was associated with ARISE at a significant moment in its history, as it merged with Child and Family Service. The mission of ARISE broadened at that moment to include a special focus on children and families involved with mental health needs. I am proud to have been associated with others in that moment of development.

The ARISE Board of Directors is comprised of diligent and dedicated individuals. We bring a range of skills and perspectives. We are accountants, attorneys, architects, administrators, and active community volunteers. We have been employed in many fields in Central New York and elsewhere. Some of us are parents.

A majority of our Board members are themselves people who have disabilities. That fact makes us unique. We consider our mission, review our past results, and endorse our future plans on the basis of the experience of people who have disabilities. ARISE is not about “doing for them”; it is about “working for what we believe and want.”

I was reminded of this history and vision as I experienced the ARISE 25th anniversary conference in September 2004. I enjoyed lunch with Brian McLane, our keynote speaker. Brian was involved with many of the early efforts of ARISE advocacy. I learned that the Carrier Dome is more accessible because of his direct involvement.

ARISE has grown from those early days. We are well-poised for further growth. I am pleased to report to you, from the Board perspective, that 2004 was a fine year, as this report indicates. I also pledge that we will remain diligent in our responsibility for the future direction of ARISE.

We still have much to do. We have considerable energy and skill to address the challenges ahead.

Dan Mohr
Look both ways. We heard it as children. The rule usually meant look left and right before crossing the street. It also helps to look behind and ahead.

When I look back forty years, I recall that my grandparents built a house in Oot Meadows in Liverpool. They designed a three-bedroom ranch that was “visitable” for those who used wheelchairs. They did so before the term “visitable” was coined. They built it out of necessity. My grandmother had both legs amputated, and both grandparents needed the convenience.

Long before the existence of Independent Living Centers, such as ARISE, families and supporters developed their own methods for including and assisting people with disabilities. However, they often struggled to do so in isolation, with few formal community resources available to assist them. Independent Living Centers made a difference.

Individuals, their families, and advocates banded together. If an accommodation worked for my grandmother and others, why not combine forces to assure that accommodations that work become the rule, rather than the exception, for the entire community. Such a principle and others formed the basis for an Independent Living philosophy and action.

ARISE and other centers were born. ARISE celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2004. We came together in a number of ways to look back to the accomplishments of that 25-year period. We celebrated wonderful experiences fueled by the energy of amazing advocates. An accessible building and bus have become more the rule than the exception. Self-advocates and peers have joined forces with families and supporters to change program design and attitudes.

We look ahead to other challenges near at hand and into the distance. We are encouraged; we are vigilant; we shall overcome.

Tom McKeown
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.
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:

- Accessibility and Technology Resource Center
- Adoption Services
- Advocacy at Individual and Systems Levels
- ARISE & Fish
- ARISE & Ski
- Assistive Technology
- Benefits Advisement
- Child Abuse Prevention Services
- Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Program
- Crisis Pregnancy Counseling
- Day and Residential Habilitation Services
- Day Camps for Adults and Children
- Domestic Violence Counseling
- Education Advocacy
- Employee Assistance Program
- Employment Services
- Health Care Advocacy
- Horseback Riding: Adaptive and Therapeutic
- Housing Advocacy and Services
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Individualized Support Services
- Information and Referral Services
- Medicaid Service Coordination
- Outpatient Mental Health Clinic
- Peer Counseling
- Public Accommodation/Accessible Environment Services
- Recreation Programs
- Support Groups
WHAT’S NEW IN 2004

ARISE Invites the Community to New Office in Syracuse

We opened the doors of our new main office at 635 James Street on January 5, 2004. ARISE owns the building, which offers a central and convenient one-stop location for community members. The new site features innovative products and designs, such as keyless entry, that people of all abilities can use and evaluate for applications in their homes or at work. More than 100 people attended the festive Grand Opening celebration on April 22, 2004, enjoying tours of the office, music, and refreshments.

Tina Romaine and John Pike display state-of-the-art features of ARISE’s new Accessibility and Technology Resource Center (ATRC) at 635 James Street. The ATRC was made possible with generous funding from the Central New York Community Foundation’s John F. Marsellus Fund.
ARISE opened a full-time Pulaski Office, at 2 Broad Street in the Pulaski Courthouse, in November 2004. The office helps ARISE meet a growing need for services for people with disabilities who live in rural areas of Oswego County. All ARISE services can be accessed from this office, which is open Monday through Thursday. ARISE celebrated the new office with an Open House on December 7, 2004.

ARISE continues to broaden our presence at the One-Stop Career Center in Oneida, where we share office space with other state and non-profit agencies. Working in conjunction with ARISE at the Farm in Chittenango, we now offer service coordination, respite services, day and residential habilitation programs, and recreational programs in Madison County. In 2004, many of our programs had six times more participants than they had only one year earlier!
WHAT’S NEW IN 2004

ARISE’s “Opening New Doors to Independence” Conference Offers Resources to Community

Celebrating our 25th anniversary as an Independent Living Center, ARISE hosted a conference at the Liverpool Holiday Inn on September 28, 2004. The event, which featured 10 workshops and 17 vendor tables, was a great success and provided valuable learning and networking opportunities to more than 120 people affiliated with the disability community in Central New York. Brian McLane, Former Assistant Commissioner of NYS VESID, presented a dynamic keynote address. ARISE is grateful to our major conference sponsors: ARC of Onondaga; The Bonadio Group; Hiscock & Barclay, LLP; Rich & Gardner Construction Company; and NewsChannel 9.

Onondaga County Legislator Nicholas Pirro (middle) and Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll (right) present ARISE Executive Director Tom McKeown with a proclamation for the ARISE Conference.

Chris Kennedy (right) leads ARISE & Sing, a musical group of singers with and without disabilities.
ARISE & Fish Launches New Boat and Fishing Club

A ceremony at Johnnie’s Pier 31 in Oneida on May 28, 2004 recognized Advantage Energy, Inc.’s generous donation of naming rights for ARISE’s brand new 25-foot accessible pontoon boat. The boat is used by ARISE & Fish, a program that provides hands-on fishing for individuals with and without disabilities. Also launched in 2004, ARISE & Fish’s Fishing Club features guest speakers, lure swaps, and a loan closet with adaptive equipment.

Regional Center Strengthens Services for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injuries

The NYS Department of Health awarded ARISE a $148,000 grant to operate a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Regional Resource Development Center (RRDC). On October 1, 2004, ARISE began coordinating services for adults with a TBI in eight counties. ARISE is the only RRDC in Central New York and one of 10 RRDCs in the state. As an RRDC, ARISE works to strengthen all aspects of service delivery to individuals with a TBI in our region. The goal of the program is to enable persons with a TBI to live in community, rather than institutional, settings.

Jim Reale and Kyle Storie (right and second from right) of Advantage Energy, Inc. are presented with a plaque by ARISE’s Joe Treglia and Darryl Storie (left and second from left) in recognition of the company’s donation of naming rights for a new pontoon boat.
WHAT’S NEW IN 2004

ARISE Advocates for Legislation That Promotes Community Living

In 2004, ARISE consumers and advocates led the charge on promoting community-based services. Our two trips to Washington, DC helped to advance a bill that is essential to community living. In Syracuse, ARISE and other groups attended a rally at the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) hearing to call upon the MISCC to support the Nursing Facility Transition and Diversion Medicaid Waiver. The Waiver, designed to increase the opportunity for New Yorkers with disabilities to live in community settings of their choice, was signed into law in November 2004.

ARISE advocates promote community-based services in 2004 during trips to Washington, DC (left) and in Syracuse (right).
In collaboration with AIDS Community Resources (ACR), ARISE began providing mental health services to the HIV/AIDS community in Central and Northern New York on January 12, 2004. Through a grant from the NYS Department of Health AIDS Institute, ARISE is contracting with ACR to offer participants comprehensive, life-enhancing counseling and supportive services to help them address the multiple challenges of a life with HIV/AIDS.

Thanks to a new partnership with the United Way of Greater Oswego County, ARISE expanded housing advocacy services for the residents of Oswego County in 2004. The Housing Advocacy and Assistance Program blossomed in its first year, constructing ramps for people unable to enter and exit their homes independently, as well as helping people locate stable, affordable, accessible, and integrated housing.
In July 2004, ARISE was approved to provide a unique, non-site-based Day Habilitation program for up to 10 people with developmental disabilities who have an interest in work, need one-to-one support, and/or require accessible transportation to participate in the community. Unlike traditional programs, the Community and Occupational Resources and Experiences (CORE) program offers services on a flexible schedule, including evenings and weekends. In 2004, CORE supported six people in achieving greater independence, community integration, and volunteer work experience.

More than 60 artists and community members attended the annual celebration of UNIQUE Magazine at ARISE’s Syracuse office on December 9, 2004. The 2004 magazine was unveiled at the event, which featured presentations of poetry and visual works by contributing artists. A second event, highlighting the contributions of UNIQUE artists living in Oswego, was held at the river’s end bookstore on December 11, 2004.
Ongoing meetings between ARISE advocates and NYS Fair Director Peter Cappucilli continue to increase accessibility at the Fairgrounds. ARISE saw the Fair as the perfect opportunity to showcase new, accessible voting machines, which are required by the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). ARISE is on the forefront of HAVA implementation in New York, and the voting machine testing at the Fair was part of a statewide effort to ensure people of all abilities have equal access to a private and independent vote.

ARISE, in collaboration with Enable and Self-Advocates of Central New York, hosted a Political Candidates Forum focusing on disability issues on October 13, 2004. Candidates running for state and federal office met with advocates and people with disabilities to discuss issues relevant to people of all abilities in Central New York. Candidates pledged to support a number of issues benefiting people with disabilities locally, in the state, and across the country.

With generous support from Toggenburg Ski Center, ARISE & Ski enjoyed another successful year, hosting more than 70 skiers in 2004. After receiving lessons, participants use adaptive ski equipment to meet the challenges of the slopes. Skiers graduate from the bunny hill to more advanced trails with assistance from volunteers, if needed. One ARISE & Ski participant took things to a more competitive level by joining the Toggenburg Wednesday night racing league.

Adam Earle, Charles Earle, and Ryan Guyder (left to right), participants in the ARISE & Ski program, enjoy the slopes at Toggenburg Ski Center.
AN OUTSTANDING YEAR OF SERVICE

Thank you to the more than 450 volunteers who generously offered their time and talents to ARISE programs in Onondaga, Oswego, and Madison Counties during 2004 to make our community better for everyone. Whether they are offering horseback riding instruction, advocating for important disability-rights legislation, or working in our Mental Health Clinic as part of an internship from a local college, individual volunteers help ARISE accomplish all that we do.

Thank you volunteers for an outstanding year of service!

Individual Volunteers

Renee Adams
Harvey Anderson
Nicole Anthony
Kate Anyon
Tiffany Anyon
Alexandra Arnold
Chris Arnold
Meredith Arnold
Melissa Baker
Cynthia Barasz
Zachary Barasz
Alyssa Barber
Callie Barr
Elizabeth Barr
Tara Barr
Rachel Barry
Melissa Becker
Ted Beers

Sharon Berezin
Charles Bertich
David Bill
Doug Blackmer
Eliana Blatt
Ethan Blatt
Anthony Boronczyk
Stephen Boswell
Zachary Boswell
Nicole Bottego
Connie Branch
Megan Brazell
Elizabeth Briggs
Candy Brooks
Eddie Brooks
Caitlin Brothers
Alicia Brown
Andrew Brown

Paul Brown
Heather Brunner
Elisa Buckley
Jenny Burrows
Kara Burry
Megan Bustillo
Kimberly Cady
Melissa Cady
Timothy Cady
Greg Canute
Emanouela Canzano
Jessica Carroll
Delaine Carthane
Tammy Case
Alissa Catalano
Delillian Cathcart
Rachel Chiles
Amanda Christman

Timothy Christman
Tom Christman
Carolyn Cifra
Nicole Cifra
Erin Clarke
Florence Cohen
Colin Concoy
Brian Connolly
Sean Connolly
Mike Cook
Nikki Cook
Jeff Corbett
Katie Corbishley
Rochelle Dorricott
Jeff Draves
Lindsey Driesen
Hanna Dubansky
Cynthia Durham
Matthew Dutcher
Adam Earle

Jodi DeRoberts
Jessica Desimone
Jonathan Desimone
Louis Desimone
Roger DeVore
Sam Dise
Michael Dobesh
Michelle Domenico
Theresa Domenico
Anne Marie Doonan
Rochelle Dorricott
Jeff Draves
Lindsey Driesen
Hanna Dubansky
Cynthia Durham
Matthew Dutcher
Adam Earle
Charles Earle  
David Edem  
Kathleen Egan  
Kearney Egerton  
Jamie Egnaczak  
Ashley Elliott  
Autum Elliott  
Brian Elwell  
Thea Engst  
Elaine Failing  
Mary Failing  
Sean Falconer  
Mark Fellows  
Lorelie Ferstler  
Ashley Fiduccia  
Cody Fiduccia  
Katelyn Field  
Carl Finer  
John Fischer  
Jonathan Fischi  
Rick Fitzgerald  
Luke Fitzgibbons  
Chris Fleming  
Briana Foisia  
Kaylie Foisia  
Nancy Foisia  
Craig Foland  
Gino Franchini  
Kalin Frazer  
David Frink  
Danielle Friot  
John Furlong  
Elizabeth Fyffe  
Emily Ghales  
Brian Gallup  
Dan Gardner  
A. Geiger  
Robert George  
Luke Gianforte  
Piper Gianforte  
Candy Gibb  
David Gibb  
Kelsey Gibb  
Judy Gilson  
Amy Gimma  
Christian Glisson  
Dan Glisson  
Jamie Glisson  
Kevin Glisson  
Melissa Glisson  
Tim Glisson  
Ashley Glouse  
Kourtney Glouse  
Kim Glover  
Karen Godfrey  
Robert George  
Ryan Goldacker  
Cecile Gontier  
Melissa Gonzalez  
Ashlee Gorham  
Cristina Gorham  
Caitlin Gorman  
Molly Gorman  
Tyson Gorman  
Hannah Graiko  
Kathy Green  
Bill Greene  
Katherine Greene  
Bill Greene  
Bob Greiner  
Jane Greiner  
Kristen Greiner  
Kira Gridley  
April Hall  
Geri Hall  
Lynn Halliwell  
Beverly Hamilton  
Wayne Hamilton  
Jeanie Hansen  
Lisa Harris  
Caitlin Hartigan  
Carrie Hartigan  
Jim Haugli  
Lauren Haugli  
Penny Hazer  
Claire Hendry  
Rosalind Herbert  
Jim Hickey  
Chris Hoag  
Christopher Hobbs  
Linda Kelley  
Brandon Key  
Jessica Key  
Brianna Killian  
Shawna Kimberly  
Deja King  
Jennifer King  
Brittney Kipping  
Kenneth Kirkman  
Liz Kline  
Kelly Knodel  
Jessica Knowlden  
Karen Kohl-Dyson  
Mikhaila Koningisor  
Alice Larkin  
Virginia Lash  
Tom Lawrence  
Jenny-Lynn Layton  
Erica Leavitt  
Adam LeBeau  
Elizabeth LeBeau  
David Lee  
Judi Lee  
Simone Lepine  
Erinn Leqtherman  
Mary Leqtherman  
Shelly Letterman  
Keshia Levan  
Alison Levchak  
Andrea Levchak  
Michael Lloyd  
Michael Lomolino  
Greg Long
Volunteer Groups

Bond, Schoeneck & King
Chittenango Rotary Club
East Syracuse-Minoa High School
JR’s Bar-B-Q
LeMoyne College
North Syracuse High School
North Syracuse Junior High School
Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES
Spurs & Spokes 4-H Club
CONTRIBUTORS

ARISE is grateful to the many companies, charitable organizations, and government agencies that provided financial and in-kind support in 2004. 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 2004 who made our services possible.

Corporations
Adam Rozum Design
Bill Rapp Pontiac
Blasland Bouck & Lee, Inc.
Bond, Schoeneck & King
Buyea's True Value
Carrier Corporation
The Craftsman Inn
Erie Materials
Gold's Gym
The Hartford Fire Insurance Group
Liverpool Transportation
MONY Life Insurance Company
P&C Foods
Sonitrol/Eastern Security Services
Tile & Carpet Town Carpet One
Time Warner
Toggenburg Mountain
Winter Sports Center
Wegmans

Charitable Sources
American Red Cross, Onondaga-Oswego Chapter
Canastota Community Chest
Central New York Antique Tractor Club
Central New York CAP Council
Central New York Community Foundation
Fort Stanwix Chapter 20, Disabled American Veterans
MONY Foundation
Oswego Youth Bureau
Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
Syracuse Corvette Club, Inc.
Town of Manlius PBA
United Auto Workers Region 9 CNY
United Way of Central New York, Inc.
United Way of Greater Oswego County, Inc.
Women of the Moose, Syracuse

Government Sources
City of Syracuse Department of Community Development
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

Madison County Workforce Investment Board
New York State Department of Education, Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities
New York State Department of Health
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
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.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please call ARISE’s Director of Human Resources at (315) 472-3171. 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.

Major Sponsors of 2004 ARISE Conference

ARC of Onondaga
The Bonadio Group
Hiscock & Barclay, LLP
NewsChannel 9
Rich & Gardner Construction Company
### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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Note 1: Figures in chart are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Note 2: Prior period adjustment relates to the value of the building purchased at 635 James Street, a value that exceeds the purchase price.
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 audio-tape—upon request. For publications in an alternative format, please contact our Information and Referral Specialist at (315) 472-3171.