MISSION

ARISE’s mission is to work with people of all abilities to create a fair and just community in which everyone can fully participate.

The agency acts as a catalyst for community change by providing services that promote the social, educational, economic, and individual interests of people with disabilities. We are guided by the philosophy that individuals with disabilities have a right to dignity, personal responsibility, and self-determination.

As an Independent Living Center, ARISE has four key characteristics:

**Consumer Control.** We embody the concept of consumer control in the agency’s governance. The majority of our board of directors and staff are persons with disabilities, and consumers determine the services we provide.

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

**Civil Rights Orientation.** We help assure that the rights of people 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.

BRIEF HISTORY

One of New York State’s eight original Independent Living Centers, ARISE was founded in 1979 by advocates dedicated to the idea — which was revolutionary at the time — that people with disabilities should have equal rights. ARISE quickly grew to meet the demand for services, opening satellite offices in Onondaga, Oswego, and Madison Counties to more fully support people with disabilities living in Central New York.

In 1999, ARISE merged with Child and Family Service of Onondaga County — an agency that had provided social services to the community for more than 100 years — to become one of the leading agencies in Central New York that addresses the interests of people with all types of disabilities.

Today ARISE has over 300 staff members who advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, and who work to deliver more than 40 different programs and services.
“Make Time for Stories” is the title of a bound journal of handwritten notes describing ARISE’s early history more than 27 years ago. Fast forward to this annual report, no longer handwritten, which reviews ARISE activities in 2006. We continue to build on the strong foundation of “independent living.”

When ARISE began in 1979, people using wheelchairs could not ride the regular bus. ARISE advocates worked with transportation providers to assure that barriers were overcome. At that distant point of history, no one knew that the Internet would become a major place for information, shopping and leisure. Thanks to a 2006 grant for ARISE from the Central New York Community Foundation, the Internet now is much more accessible.

While ARISE as a whole celebrated 27 years of work in 2006, our Oswego office was recognized for its major impact over ten years. We are firmly planted in many areas of Oswego County, including our newly expanded space in Pulaski.

Our integrated recreation programs began from the seeds of the ARISE & Ski program, which also celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006. Last year, the ARISE at the Farm integrated recreation activities flourished with a renewed commitment to continued programming, even after the natural sunset of a major federal grant.

The 1999 ARISE merger with Child and Family Services provided an opportunity for the agency to be alert to the promotion of mental health. This focus was further enhanced in 2006 as we developed a new support model recognizing the impact of trauma.

We expanded our presence in Madison County by relocating our office to the city of Oneida and establishing an after-school respite program for youngsters having developmental disabilities.

We are also poised for future partnerships with fellow advocates such as with Vera House, Syracuse University and many others.

Financially, 2006 was characterized by continued double-digit revenue growth and a solid fiscal foundation.

Going forward, we continue to “make time for stories.” We ARE the story of our consumers; their family members; our caring and competent staff and strong volunteers; fellow advocates, donors and funders; our dedicated Board of Directors. 

As the story of 2006 is told in wonderful ways, it is also imprinted with recognition of loss. David Klim, local family court judge and advocate, as well as a member of our Board of Directors, died suddenly in July. David’s legacy of concern and compassion for all he met has been woven into the ARISE story. At the end of the year, Laura Janson, the 18-year old daughter of Ann, our horse riding program director, died in a car accident. Laura was the vivacious, skilled, sensitive riding instructor for many children who benefited from our Farm activities. She, too, has left a lasting impression.

We ARE the story of the people associated with ARISE. A few elements of the 2006 chapter are provided here for you. Thank you for making time to read this annual telling of the tale.

A Message to Our Friends

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2006-2007
Dan Mohr, President
Don Scholl, Vice President
Dale Fanning, Treasurer
Agnes McCray, Secretary
Tania Anderson
James Bertram
Matt Dadey
John Donovan
Carol Gentry
Sue Judge
Michael Klaehn
David Klim (in memoriam)
Mitch Mitchell
Keith Mulcahey
Ernie Wheeler
Commemorating a 10th anniversary

ARISE & Ski turned ten in 2006, and it marked the occasion with another successful season made possible by the support of the management of Toggenburg Ski Center in Fabius. Thanks to dedicated ARISE & Ski volunteers, 80 participants hit the slopes over the course of six weekends in January and February. Because our adaptive ski program is tailored to the unique abilities of each skier, both newcomers and seasoned veterans get the chance to experience the thrill of downhill skiing.

Creating a model of internet accessibility

The ARISE website (www.ariseinc.org) underwent a complete overhaul during 2006 thanks to a grant from the Central New York Community Foundation. The user-friendly and fully accessible site was unveiled in July, coinciding with the 16th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Creating a site that meets web accessibility standards was a natural progression for ARISE, and an extension of our mission in the current technological age. Our new web site has features that make it easier for visitors of all abilities to use. It also offers a range of information and resources, including an Advocacy Center and a section dedicated to accessibility resources.

Publishing the 6th edition of a unique magazine

Unveiled in December at two separate community celebrations, UNIQUE 2006 was the largest issue to date, including 41 works by more than 46 artists. The growth of this art and literary magazine that features the work of artists with disabilities is a clear sign of its impact. The publication produces many “ripples” throughout the community as it touches the lives of artists and the public alike. Most importantly, UNIQUE increases awareness of, and respect for, the capabilities of people who have disabilities. We are delighted with the enthusiasm our community shows for UNIQUE and are honored to be a part of this ongoing project.

Collaborating to make a difference

Building on a long-standing relationship, ARISE worked with Syracuse University (SU) on several new projects in 2006. ARISE staff helped SU industrial design students develop plans for a fully integrated and accessible “Connective Corridor” linking the SU hill with downtown Syracuse and the community. Our collaboration with SU’s College of Law resulted in an accessibility survey of 60 downtown Syracuse restaurants. The survey was followed up with suggestions for accessibility improvements where needed, and will culminate in publishing a restaurant accessibility guide in 2007. ARISE also partnered with SU on a two-year grant that promotes self-employment for people with disabilities.
**Increasing voting accessibility**

After working with Syracuse University law students to survey the accessibility of more than 80 polling places in Onondaga County, ARISE staff and community residents got to work advocating for change. Their efforts resulted in a press conference, articles in local news publications, and a meeting with the Commissioners of the Onondaga County Board of Elections. The results of the advocates’ commitment to this cause are astonishing: for the 2006 election, the Onondaga County Board of Elections changed polling sites for over 64,000 voters to eliminate inaccessible voting locations. Congratulations to our advocates who work tirelessly for change!

**Promoting community accessibility**

Advocating to increase the accessibility of our communities involves increasing public awareness and not being afraid to take on tough issues that touch nearly all aspects of our daily lives. In keeping with tradition, ARISE advocates stepped up to this challenge in 2006 with efforts that influenced the accessibility of housing, businesses, and a variety of public places in Central New York. Advocates succeeded in increasing the accessibility of a major intersection in the City of Syracuse, improving physical access and signage at several area supermarkets, and working with a Syracuse-based non-profit housing agency to ensure a newly-constructed home met visitability standards. They even advocated to have a stoplight installed at a busy Oswego intersection to ensure safe crossing ... not just for people with disabilities, but for everyone. Keep taking on the tough issues, advocates!

**Ensuring healthcare supports community integration**

The Supreme Court’s *Olmstead* decision in 1999 opened the door for people with disabilities fully integrating in the community by encouraging community-based support instead of institutionalization. During 2006, ARISE advocates testified on the benefits of community-based care at the Public Hearing on Healthcare Facilities for the 21st Century. They also provided education to healthcare providers on a person’s right to receive the assistance needed to live in the community, and advocated for and worked with people who are institutionalized to help them move back to the community. The results of our advocates’ work continues to speak for itself as, each year, numerous local residents move from nursing homes to the community, and dozens more receive the support they need to avoid institutionalization and continue living in the communities they love.
ARISE 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

2006 a look back

Mentoring to support vocational growth
ARISE launched a Vocational Peer Mentoring Program in April 2006 with a grant from the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. The only program of its kind in Onondaga County, it incorporates peer mentoring into the employment process to enhance engagement in vocational exploration. After receiving training, volunteer mentors, all of whom are persons with disabilities, work with program participants on an ongoing basis. Mentors guide participants in determining their own path to employment, and help them develop the skills needed to secure a quality job that offers good pay, benefits, and advancement opportunities. ARISE has incorporated peer mentoring into our Advocacy and Independent Living programs since the agency’s inception, and our Vocational Peer Mentoring Program creates the opportunity to expand this successful practice in a new area.

Taking the lead in promoting mental health
ARISE's Outpatient Mental Health programs continue to lead the way in expanding the delivery of mental health services in community settings. Adding to our existing community-based programs, we collaborated with the Huntington Family Centers to establish a full-time ARISE clinician at the center. The ARISE clinic also implemented Trauma Systems Therapy, an innovative model that helps children better cope with everyday situations following a traumatic event. Staying a leader requires skilled staff, and ARISE clinicians received training in several cutting-edge approaches during 2006, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Treatment.

With funding from the Syracuse City School District and the Onondaga County Department of Mental Health, the ARISE School-Based Mental Health Program operated its Summer LINK2Adventure program in 2006. LINK2Adventure is a therapeutic recreational program that relies on the collaboration between ARISE mental health therapists and teachers who are trained in outdoor recreation. In 2006, 19 youth from Shea Community School participated in the LINK2Adventure summer program. Together the youth learned skills on the ropes course and on horseback that promoted cooperation and teamwork. With the benefit of daily mental health therapy, participants processed strong emotions, developed essential coping skills, and experienced success!

Working to end violence against women with disabilities
ARISE partnered with Vera House (a local agency that helps survivors of domestic and sexual violence) to secure a three-year, $750,000 grant to end violence against women with disabilities and Deaf women. One of only fifteen grants awarded nationwide by the Federal Office on Violence Against Women, the funding supports Project Emerge—a comprehensive community prevention and response system designed to assist women with disabilities who have experienced domestic or sexual violence.

As part of Project Emerge, ARISE and Vera House are developing and conducting a community needs assessment. The results of the assessment will provide the information needed to create a training curriculum for human service agencies that will better prepare them for identifying and assisting survivors and women at risk.

The Accessibility Task Force formed by the partnership is a forum for sharing ideas to ensure the project fully considers the challenges and potential solutions for improving early intervention and service delivery. Through increased community collaboration, the partnership will work to change existing policies and improve accessibility—both physical/attitudinal accessibility and ease of access to services—for women with disabilities and Deaf women who are survivors of domestic or sexual violence.

Donovan Leary, a participant in ARISE’s after-school Respite Program, is busy building a toy train track.
Helping families relax
When a child has a developmental disability, taking a short break from daily caregiving responsibilities can be good for the whole family. That’s exactly what the Madison County Family Support Advisory Council thought when it developed a plan for increasing after-school programming in the area. ARISE stepped up to meet this challenge, launching an after-school program that gives youth with developmental disabilities the chance to participate in activities that encourage learning and enhance social skills. The program, which typically serves six youth daily, is operated by ARISE from the Fyler Road Church Community Center, located in Kirkville.

Bringing it all together
ARISE’s Madison County office has experienced steady growth in both the number of people served and the range of services offered since it opened in 2003. In 2006, the time had come to move to a larger office that could accommodate our growing staff and allow us to provide all of our services from one location. With our move in October 2006 to 121 Oneida Street in Oneida, we successfully brought Residential and Day Habilitation, Supported Employment, Medicaid Service Coordination and our other community-based programs all under one roof. The “reunion” not only increases office efficiency, it gives us the ability to better serve Madison County communities.

Keeping pace with change
ARISE at the Farm continues to adapt to the changing needs of the communities we serve. To augment our existing adaptive and therapeutic riding activities and the host of other adult and youth recreational programs we offer, in 2006 the Farm secured three Family Support Services grants from local Developmental Service Offices to support several new programs. Youth from Oswego County enjoyed a one-week summer camp, while Madison and Onondaga County youth participated in ongoing school break recreation programs that gave them the chance to socialize and get involved in activities such as miniature golf, game night, and a barn dance.

The advocates at the Farm also partnered with the Syracuse area Power Soccer team in 2006, helping to secure a grant to purchase new soccer equipment, host a 2007 tournament, and support local team members’ participation in a Buffalo tournament. And as if horseback riding, biking, fishing, skiing, hiking, and countless other recreational activities aren’t enough, the Farm’s collaboration with Making Waves gives people the opportunity to receive instruction in therapeutic swimming at a nearby community-based facility!
Growing to meet community needs

In 2004, ARISE’s Oswego office opened a satellite office of its own in Pulaski to increase the accessibility of our services for people living in the northern areas of the county. Since the office opened we’ve responded to the area’s needs by steadily expanding staffing and the range of services offered from this location. The year 2006 was no exception, and our Pulaski satellite office doubled its existing space in the Oswego County Court House building. While the expansion was key to relieving space pressures, the largest impact it had was on service provision as we are now able to provide Residential Habilitation directly from our Pulaski location.

Advancing accessible transportation

When funding was cut in 2004 for Oswego County Opportunity’s Call-N-Ride accessible transportation service, ARISE stepped up to keep the busses rolling. And they’ve been rolling ever since thanks to the fundraising efforts of our Oswego office and the Vision Network of Oswego County, an advocacy group for people with visual impairments. In 2006, a $15,000 grant from Constellation Energy and a $7,500 grant sponsored by Assemblyman Bob Oaks gave Call-N-Ride the funds needed to expand services and increase ridership. Keeping the service operating gives the people who depend on Call-N-Ride the chance to continue being independent, productive, contributing members of their communities.

Celebrating a decade of growth at ARISE Oswego

ARISE’s Oswego office was our first satellite location and is credited with bringing independent living services to people with disabilities and their families throughout Oswego County. With 2006 marking the Oswego office’s 10th anniversary, we paused to reflect on its tremendous growth over the past decade. Our programs now provide a wide range of services in the areas of advocacy, independent living, community-based supports, youth programs, housing, employment, and recreation. In 2006, ARISE Oswego was honored to receive recognition as the “Not for Profit Small Business of the Year” from the Greater Oswego Chamber of Commerce. Many thanks to the dedication of the staff who have helped make ARISE’s Oswego office a valuable member of Oswego County’s communities.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2006
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

Note: figures rounded to the nearest thousand

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS
Current Assets $ 970,000
Property $ 2,196,000
TOTAL ASSETS $ 3,166,000

LIABILITIES
Current Liabilities $ 714,000
Long-Term Debt $ 1,053,000
Net Assets $ 1,399,000
TOTAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES $ 3,166,000

Statement of Activities

SUPPORT AND REVENUE
Grant Revenue $ 1,903,000
Program Revenue $ 5,402,000
United Way of Central New York $ 193,000
Donations $ 62,000
Other Income $ 85,000
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE $ 7,645,000

EXPENSES
Support Services $ 2,689,000
Oswego Operations $ 1,669,000
Mental Health Services $ 1,195,000
Employment Services $ 392,000
Integrated Recreation Services $ 289,000
Advocacy Services $ 162,000
Technology Services $ 68,000
General and Admin. Services $ 1,071,000
TOTAL EXPENSES $ 7,535,000
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $ 110,000
SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS

ARISE truly appreciates the many sponsors and supporters of our activities. We are also grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who offered their time and talent to ARISE programs during 2006. Whether advocating for disability rights, supporting a Farm event, or working as an intern in our Mental Health Clinic, your generosity helped make our community better for everyone. We thank you!

CONTRIBUTORS

We extend a heartfelt “thank you” to the individuals, companies, charitable organizations, and government agencies that provided financial and in-kind support in 2006. Your generosity helped us better advocate for the interests of individuals with disabilities who live in our community.

Corporations & Charitable Organizations

Association of Family Court Judges of the State of New York
AXA Financial, Inc.
Aztec Excavation
Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
Buyea’s True Value
Canale’s Restaurant
Canastota Community Chest
Central New York Community Foundation
Chittenango Rotary Club
Chittenango United Methodist Church
Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York
Constellation Energy
Cresthill Suites
Davis Walbridge Backhoe Service
Deluxe Corporation Foundation
Dowdle Funeral Home
Fayetteville-Manlius High School Activity Fund
First United Methodist Church of Oswego
Fremont Bakery
Fulton Savings Bank
Fyler Road Kids Convenience After School Program
GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Hafner’s Red Barn
Hawthorne Property Services
Haylor, Freyer & Coon, Inc.
Lake City Masonic Lodge
Lighthouse Station
Lockheed Martin Employees Federated Fund
Loyal Order of Moose, Syracuse Lodge 625
Maier Family Community Fund
Mead-Johnson
Meadowbrook Dairy
Nation’s Rent
Nationwide Foundation
O’Brien & Gere
P. Drescher Co., Inc.
Perrin & DeMore, PC
Power Federal Credit Union
Queensboro Dairy
Real Estate Benevolent Fund
Salvation Army
Sew Faster
Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet, PC
Sonitrol/Eastern Security Services
Syracuse Crunch Hockey
Syracuse Fire Department Employees
Time Warner Cable
Toggenburg Mountain Winter Sports Center
Town of Manlius PBA
United Methodist Women of Bernhards Bay United Methodist Church
United Way of Central New York
United Way of Greater Oswego County
United Way of New York City
United Way of the Greater Utica Area
United Way of West Central Connecticut
Wal-Mart Foundation
Welch Allyn Employee Gifting Committee
William’s Farm Fence

Government Agencies

City of Syracuse Department of Community Development
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 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
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, secured by and for the Senator John DeFrancisco Arts and Cultural Program, administered by the Cultural Resources Council

Onondaga County Community Development Department
Onondaga County Department of Mental Health
Onondaga County Department of Social Services
Syracuse City School District
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Individuals

William & Janet Aaron
Albright Family
Ronald & Patricia Alexander
Mary Ann Anderson
Tania Anderson
Anonymous
Patricia Anson
Christopher Arnold & Ellen Yeomans
Rarpreet Bali
Joseph & Cheryl Barnes
John Bennett
Jeffry & Patricia Berman
James Bertram
Paul & Dixie Blackley
Mark Botwinick
Virginia Bowles
Jeanne Bowman
Jonathan & Debra Braiman
Randi Bregman
Charlene Bright
Amy Brown
Richard Brundage
Linda Campbell, Esq.
Anne Marie Campolo
James Capodagli
William & Cherie Carnevale
Ray Carney
John E. & Joan M. Casey
James & Lois Cody
Teresa Colwell
Richard & Lisa Cote
Gregory Cotter
W. Carroll Coyne
Catherine Degeorge
William Dowling
Joseph & Nienke Dosa
Elsie & Walter Duffy
James & Jo Ellen Dunlop
Jerome Dusek
Diane Emm
Marion & Linda Ervin
Mary Failing
Robert & Lorraine Felter
Eleanor Filburn
John & Rose Flynn
Michael Garn
Terese Ginochetti
Harvey & Cathy Goldstein
William Guyder
Dolores Halbig
T.M. & M.L. Hammill
Hon. Bryan & Liz Hedges
Maurie Heins
John & Rosemary Hennessy
Gary Hess
Kevin & Mary Hickey
Virginia Hickey
Tim & Anne Marie Higgins
Susan F. Hodge
John Hofferbush
Debra Holmes
Roberta Johnson
Diane Jones
Robert & Cheryl Kantak
Karen Keast
Thomas Keating & P. Lynn Ouellette
Richard & Marcia Kendrick
Brian & Sue Key
Edward & Kathleen Klamm
Andy Kudarauskas
Nancy Lasher
Gary Lavine
David & Diane Layne
Michael & Susan Lesser
Stephanie Lewis
Scott Lickstein & Catherine Nock
Paul Little
Julia K. Lizak
Joseph & Kay Logan
Kathleen Logan
Rose Lumia
Karen Lynch
Richard Lyons
Madison Family
Daniel Maffei
William Magnarelli
Anne Maier
Patrick Mannion
Bridget Marion
Jan Markarian
May Marocco
Peter Martens
Wade & Patricia Marvin
Carleton and Patricia Masten
Kevin McCarthy
Nancy McCarty
Lynne & Tom McKeown
Joseph & Kelly Militi
Marian Miller
Nicholas Moffa, MD
Lawrence & Nancy Moloff
Ed Mort
Joseph & Colleen Murphy
Tracy Murphy
Frank & Delores Musante
Sandra Myhalik
Peter Mylon & Vassilka Tchoroleeva
Aurene Naistadt
Alice Newgarden
Faith Noonan
Richard & Donna Parks
David Pasinski
George Pelrah
Paul Phillips & Sharon Sullivan
Leon & Julie Plochocki
Nicholas & Mary Politis
Ivan G. Proano, MD
Roger Pullen
Dorothy Race
John & Marsha Reed
Joan Reichert
Robert & Shirley Rock
Robert & Carrie Rood
Edwin & Maria Rothbaler
Robert & Carolyn Santay
Pamela & James Sartori
Donald & Anne Scholl
Daniel & Laura Schroth
Eric Schultz
Elsie Schwickrath & Mary Nortman
John & Donna Scofield
Norman & Constance Seiter
Selma J. Sheridan, MD

John & Susan Sindoni
John & Marilyn Skopek
Jim & Cathy Skvorak
Laura Sovat
Thomas & Pamela Speer
Kathleen Stribley
Paul & Suzanne Terek
Toby and Linda Torbitt
Town of DeWitt Supervisors, Board Members & Elected Officials
James & Frances Tucker
Wendy Van Der Bogart
Victor & Geri Vasta
Karen West
Bruce Wichmann
Robert & Kathleen Wilson
Virginia Wing
Julian Wisniewski
Gerhard Wolfram
Women of the Moose 105
Jane & John Wright
Donald & Rosemarie Zellers

thank you
WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT

You can support ARISE by volunteering your time, donating cash or in-kind gifts, or supporting our many events and activities.

Your contribution to ARISE ensures that people with disabilities have their rights respected and live as independently as possible.

Please make checks payable to ARISE and mail to:

ARISE
635 James Street
Syracuse NY 13203

You are also welcome to make a contribution on our secure web site at www.ariseinc.org.

For information about volunteering at any of our office locations, please call our Human Resources Director at (315) 472-3171.

ARISE Main Office
Onondaga County
635 James Street
Syracuse, NY 13203
Phone: (315) 472-3171
TTY: (315) 479-6363

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

Pulaski Office
2 Broad Street
Pulaski, NY 13142
Phone: (315) 298-5726

Madison County Office
121 Oneida Street
Oneida, New York 13421
Phone: (315) 363-4672
TTY: (315) 363-2364

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

www.ariseinc.org

This report offered in alternative formats

Portions of this publication are available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact our Information and Referral Specialist at (315) 472-3171.