

Pursuing Our Mission



ARISE
2007

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.

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 450 staff members who advocate for the interests of people with disabilities, and who work to deliver more than 40 different programs and services.



IN MEMORIAM

On January 28, 2008, ARISE lost one of our longtime employees, Gerald Walsh. During Gerry's eight years as a Medicaid Service Coordinator, his commitment to ARISE's mission was exemplified through personal passion and devotion to the many people he assisted. We will miss him.

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

On March 17th, 2008, David Paterson was sworn in as New York's 55th governor. What made the occasion remarkable is that Paterson not only is the state's first African-American governor, but also is legally blind. Interestingly, media covering the event concentrated almost entirely on Governor Paterson's sight impairment, which prompted numerous phone calls to ARISE from local reporters seeking comments.

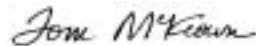
It takes only a little research to understand that David Paterson, 53, rose to become one of our country's leaders by making the most of his abilities. He attended mainstream schools, earned degrees from Columbia University and Hofstra Law School, and completed the New York City Marathon in 1999.

What comes to mind when thinking about Governor Paterson is that he embodies the philosophy that is the driving force behind ARISE. We work to ensure that people of all abilities have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. We advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, offer programs that maximize independence, and know that all people have the right to work towards their personal goals.

Today's assistive technology eliminates the barriers that, in the past, prevented people with disabilities from fully participating in the workplace and the community. But one barrier often still exists: stereotypes. Many people still believe that people with disabilities "can't do" what others can do.

So when reporters called for our comments in early March, we at ARISE responded with this message: our goal is to continue working toward the day when a person's disability does not pose a barrier. Governor Paterson's accomplishments are proof that our goal is attainable.

We hope that this annual report demonstrates our commitment to that goal.



Executive Director



Board President, 2008

ARISE promotes the social, economic, educational, 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.

Our programs and services include:

Accessibility Resource Center

Advocacy (Individual & Systems)

- Benefits
- Education
- Health Care
- Housing

Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Program

Day Habilitation – Group & Individual

Employment Services

- Benefits Advisement
- Supported Employment
- Vocational Peer Mentoring
- 635 Staffing – Services for Business

High School Transition Program

Housing

- Home Accessibility
- Homeless Services
- Housing Search Assistance
- Rental Subsidies

Independent Living Skills Training

Information and Referral

Integrated Recreation

- ARISE & Fish
- ARISE & Ski
- ARISE at the Farm

Medicaid Service Coordination

Medical Equipment Loan Closet

Mental Health Services

- Child Abuse Prevention Services
- Counseling for Persons Who Are HIV+
- Crisis Pregnancy Counseling
- Domestic Violence Counseling
- School-Based Mental Health Program
- Individual, family & group therapy

Peer Counseling

Project Emerge – Working to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities

Regional Resource Development Center for Persons with Brain Injury

Residential Habilitation

Respite Program – After School

Support & Advocacy Groups

FEDERAL INITIATIVES FACE SCRUTINY

In 2007, ARISE collaborated with Cornell University to sponsor a panel discussion on current federal disability initiatives. On July 24th, federal officials representing the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Federal Transit Administration, and the U.S. Access Board arrived from Washington, D.C., to field questions from Central New York disability advocates. More than 90 people questioned representatives about disability initiatives currently underway at the federal level.

ADA MARCH A MOVING EVENT

Each year, ARISE partners with local agencies to celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA celebration includes a march from ARISE's James Street office to Syracuse's downtown federal building for a proclamation by political officials of July as Disabilities Awareness month. On July 26th, with more than one hundred people looking on, several march participants took the microphone and talked openly about how the ADA has affected them personally. Their candor was met with rounds of applause by the audience, who sensed they were a part of a very special experience.



DAY HAB CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

During 2007, ARISE's Onondaga County-based individualized Day Hab program expanded by nearly 20 percent and now benefits 27 individuals with disabilities.

The year also marked the 5th anniversary of ARISE's group Day Hab program, an occasion commemorated with a celebration attended by dozens of program participants, staff, and friends.

On May 19th, Day Hab also held its first Spring Fling Dance for adults with disabilities. More than 60 people enjoyed music, food, dancing, and a silent auction at the black tie affair.

AFTER-SCHOOL RESPITE PROGRAM EXPANDS

Launched in 2006, ARISE's After-School Respite program focuses on meeting the needs of children with Autism.

With support from Madison County Family Support Services, After-School Respite expanded significantly in 2007 with the purchase of playground equipment, a computer, and internet access.

Program expansion also resulted in nearly twice as many youth and their families now benefiting from respite services.



CONSUMER DIRECTED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

ARISE's Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPAP) program, offered in both Onondaga and Oswego Counties, provides individuals with disabilities assistance completing everyday tasks.

In 2007, Oswego County CDPAP expanded and now has more than 60 staff members providing services for 100 consumers.

Onondaga County CDPAP also grew with the addition of a newly-created management position and an increase to 80 participants who collectively directed over 1,525 hours of personal assistance each month.

RESIDENTIAL HABILITATION

ARISE's Residential Habilitation (Res Hab) program, provided in Onondaga, Oswego, and Madison Counties, helps people with disabilities increase their independence and reach personal goals.

ARISE's Onondaga County Residential Habilitation program grew by nearly 30 percent in 2007 with the addition of a full-time assistant coordinator. Staff now work with approximately 50 individuals each year.

The Oswego County Res Hab program participation increased by almost 15 percent, resulting in more than 60 participants benefiting each year.

MEDICAID SERVICE COORDINATION

Medicaid Service Coordination plays an active role in helping program participants develop an individualized plan and access needed community resources.

During 2007, ARISE's Onondaga County Medicaid Service Coordination program grew by 10 percent with the addition of approximately 25 new participants. Nearly 180 individuals are now receiving services each year.

In Oswego County, Medicaid Service Coordinators worked with almost 240 people, an increase of nearly 20 more participants than in the previous year.

ARISE JOINS DESIGNATED AIDS CENTER

ARISE has worked with individuals with HIV/AIDS for four years in collaboration with AIDS Community Resources.

In 2007, ARISE's Outpatient Mental Health Clinic partnered with SUNY Upstate Medical University to provide services at SUNY's Designated AIDS Center (DAC), which serves approximately 730 people from 15 counties each year.

An HIV+ diagnosis is a life changing experience. Approximately 60 percent of persons with HIV/AIDS have a mental health issue but face significant barriers to accessing services. An ARISE clinician joined the DAC to help individuals and families stabilize and become adjusted to the HIV+ diagnosis.

NEW LOCATIONS BRING SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

With a focus on increasing access to services, ARISE established collaborations in 2007 that brought mental health services to several community locations.

An ARISE clinician is now located at the Huntington Family Centers in Syracuse, Grimshaw Elementary School in LaFayette, and at P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s Family Resource Center in Tully.

Clinicians provide counseling, mental health assessments, and information and referral. The community-based locations give ARISE the ability to blend seamlessly with existing services and to meet people "where they are," increasing their comfort level.

RESOURCE CENTER IMPROVES ACCESS

As the Regional Resource Development Center (RRDC) for Persons with Brain Injury for eight counties in the North County, Syracuse, and Utica areas, ARISE works to improve access to services.

The RRDC served over 200 individuals in 2007. Staff were also instrumental in developing a relationship with Belvedere of Albany, which is launching a substance abuse program in Syracuse for persons with brain injuries.

The RRDC helped facilitate the First Annual Providers Fair where over 200 attendees learned about services provided by 20 local providers.



UNIQUE GAINS PUBLIC RECOGNITION

UNIQUE, an annual art and literary publication showcasing the work of Central New York artists with disabilities, celebrated its sixth edition in 2007.

For the first time, ARISE held the unveiling of UNIQUE at the Delavan Art Gallery in Syracuse. More than 200 people, including artists and their family and friends, enjoyed an evening of art and music.

The Delavan is dedicated to supporting local artists, making UNIQUE a perfect fit with the gallery's mission. Visitors enjoyed viewing UNIQUE artwork on display with several exhibitions by local artists.

PROJECT EMERGE TAKES THE LEAD

Project Emerge, a partnership between ARISE and Vera House, works to end violence against women with disabilities and Deaf women.

Now in its second year, the project is focusing on identifying barriers to services. Staff are conducting stakeholder interviews, administering surveys, and planning Listening Circles, which offer an opportunity for people to share their concerns.

The results will be used to develop a strategic plan for improving access to services.



NEW FULTON OFFICE MAKES IN-ROADS

ARISE opened our first satellite office in Oswego eleven years ago, followed by the opening of our Pulaski office in 2004.

In September of 2007, ARISE opened our third Oswego County satellite office in Fulton. Our newest location not only accommodates program growth, it provides easier access to services for families who live in the Fulton area.

Staffed by seven employees, ARISE's Fulton location houses our Oswego County Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance and Residential Habilitation programs.

ACCESSIBILITY EFFORTS RAMP UP

Constructing ramps and making accessibility modifications ensures that people with disabilities can live independently in the community.

In 2007, the program was supported by Laborers Local 633, members of the First United Methodist Church, Carpenters Local 747, the United Way of Greater Oswego County, and donations from the community.

The generous contributions paid off. More than 23 families without the financial resources to construct a ramp or undertake modifications benefited from increased access to the community.

SIBSHOPS DEBUTS

September 2007 marked the launch of ARISE's Oswego Sibshops, which gives youth who have a sibling with a disability a safe environment to share their feelings and talk about their experiences.

Frequently, brothers and sisters of a sibling with a disability report that they too need additional support. Often siblings cope with receiving less attention, teasing from peers, worrying about their sibling's health, guilt, and additional responsibilities.

Under the leadership of specially-trained facilitators, 25 Sibshops participants benefit from games, crafts, role playing, refreshments, and a variety of other fun activities.

SOCIAL GROUP INITIATED

When members of SPECTRUM (a support group for parents who have children on the Autism Spectrum) suggested starting a social group, ARISE's Oswego staff rose to the challenge.

The Central Square area offers relatively few opportunities for youth with disabilities. This new group focuses on improving social skills, which helps young people prepare for college and the work place.

Monthly meetings take place at the very accommodating First Universalist Church in Central Square, while social outings include bowling, pizza, and trips – such as to Lights on the Lake.



ARISE & SKI CELEBRATES 11TH ANNIVERSARY

ARISE & Ski enjoyed another successful season with over 70 individuals with disabilities of all ages enjoying six weeks on the ski slopes.

The program has received support from Toggenburg Winter Sports Center in Fabius, NY, since its inception. In 2007, it received a boost from an Alliance Bank grant that helped purchase three new bi-skis, adult and child-sized outriggers, and a snow wing.

The season wrapped up with seven ARISE & Ski participants competing in the Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged in Lake Placid, NY.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES A HIT

When participants in ARISE at the Farm's School Break Recreation program get together, just about anything can happen. During 2007, they decorated gingerbread houses, carved pumpkins, enjoyed a movie, rode horses, baked cookies, and played some rounds of miniature golf.

But perhaps their most distinctive activity was Broadway Stars. Funded by the Madison County Family Support Services Council, the event gave 12 youth, along with a family member, the opportunity to attend a live performance of Phantom of the Opera at the Syracuse Civic Center. What could beat that? A limousine ride and dinner out afterward!

EQUINE PROGRAMS EXPAND

The following is a short list of ARISE at the Farm's 2007 accomplishments:

- Three Adaptive Riding Program participants competed in the Independence Open Horse Show at Cazenovia College
- Horsemanship with a Twist was launched, which offers year-round training and socializing for equine program volunteers
- Over 100 youth attended summer camps, with dozens of their friends and family sharing the experience through volunteering
- Four Horsemanship Camps helped participants learn the basics of horse care and horseback riding

“MAKE-A-WISH” MAKES A DIFFERENCE

When the Make-A-Wish Foundation approached ARISE with a request from a 12-year-old boy, we were more than happy to help. The youth’s wish was to spend a long weekend at ARISE at the Farm. He arrived from Florida with his family on a Thursday afternoon in late autumn and spent four days enjoying everything the Farm has to offer.

In addition to helping with chores, family members participated in a barn dance, apple picking, bonfires, and sing-a-longs. And who could be on a horse farm without wearing cowboy boots and a hat? Certainly not this 12-year-old!

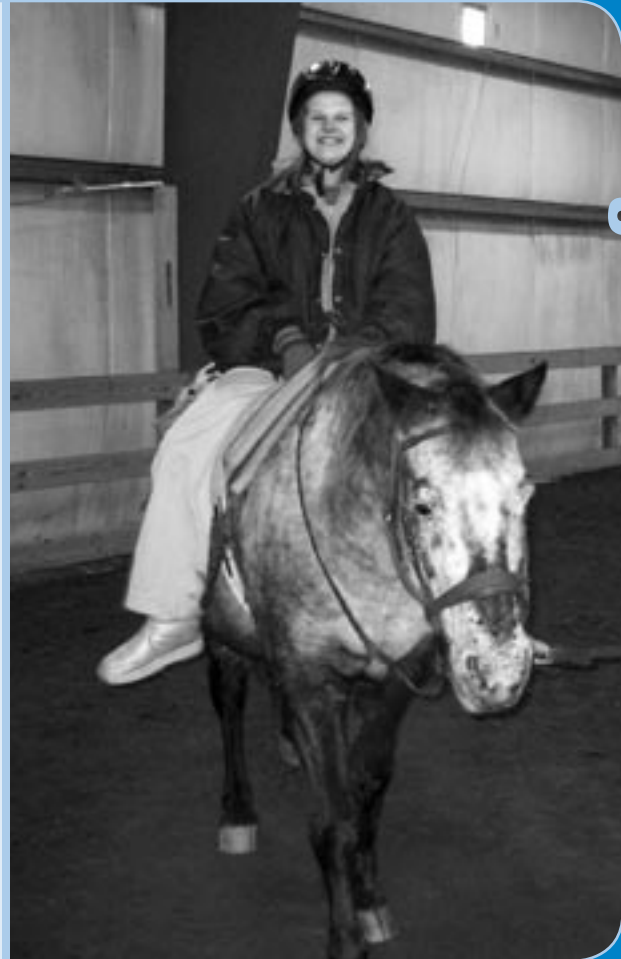
AROUND THE FARMYARD

With all that’s going on at ARISE at the Farm, it’s important to mention one of our latest additions: turkeys joined our petting zoo in 2007. The Petting Zoo also strutted its stuff at Arc of Onondaga County’s annual race, with a goat, miniature horse, ponies, and chickens heading out to Long Branch Park on race day to entertain the crowd.

September and October Costume Barn Dances were a hit, with everyone showing off their costumes, while our Fall Fest “Thanks to Our Community” event topped off the autumn season.

BOAT TOUR PROVIDES EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

ARISE & Fish partnered with the Liverpool Central School District and BOCES to give children a chance to tour Onondaga Lake and learn more about this local treasure.



PROGRAM BOOSTS JOB-SEEKING SUCCESS

Now in its ninth year of operation, the ARISE Employment Program that is funded by the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services underwent an overhaul in 2007.

Renamed 635 Staffing, the program implemented several marketing and branding initiatives, including a debut at the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce Business Show.

635 Staffing is a full-fledged employment service that offers area businesses an inexpensive alternative for staff recruiting. The change gives 635 Staffing the ability to better serve program participants, while opening new opportunities for employers in need of qualified job candidates.

MENTORS SUPPORT PERSONAL GROWTH

ARISE's Employment Peer Mentoring Program enjoyed a second successful year in 2007. Eight employment mentors worked with thirty-eight program participants, offering guidance and support throughout job preparation and search. Nine participants secured meaningful employment.

Program staff also facilitated a monthly speakers' bureau that invites area business representatives to talk about career alternatives.

Mary Coogan, Program Manager, says, "I'm working with an awesome group of mentors who have never wavered in their dedication and commitment."



VOLUNTEERS

ARISE truly appreciates the hundreds of volunteers who offered their time and talent to ARISE programs during 2007.

Whether advocating for disability rights, supporting a Farm event, or working in our offices, 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 2007. Your generosity helped us better advocate for the interests of individuals with disabilities who live in our community.

BUSINESSES & CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance Bank

Carpenters Local 747

Community Health Foundation of Western & Central New York

Constellation Energy

DeFrancisco Arts, Culture and Heritage Grants of the Cultural Resources Council

Davis Walbridge, Inc.

First United Methodist Church of Oswego

First Universalist Church (Central Square)

Hawthorne Property Services, LLC

Hafner's Red Barn

Inficon

Johnnie's Pier 31

Laborers Local 633

Lighthouse Station

Longley Jones

National Grid

Oswego City-County Youth Bureau

P. Drescher Co., Inc.

Parents of Special Children, Inc.

Sunny Day Nursery School

Syracuse Community Health Center

Syracuse Corvette Club

Toggenburg Mountain

Tractor Supply Company

United Way of Central New York

United Way of Greater Oswego County

Welch Allyn Employee Gifting Committee

**CORPORATIONS &
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

Central Square Central
School District

City of Syracuse Department
of Community Development

Mexico Academy and Central
School District

New York State Department
of Health

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 Parks
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

John Alissandrello

Tania Anderson

Patricia Anson

Mary Ann Anthony & Nicholas
Fiore

Bonnie Backus

Takida Beckwith

Margaret Biddlecome

Sedalia Brown-Harrison

Stephen Butler

Callahan Family

Emanouela Canzano

James Capodagli

Arthur R. Cass

Joanne Cerrito

Jennifer Cohen

Dennis Coon

Russell Cooper

Richard & Lisa Cote, Jr.

Sunday M. Darling

Susan Dean

Anna P. Dennison

Tracy Diamond

Nora DiMeis

Patricia Duffy

James & Jo Ellen Dunlop

Diane Emm

Scott & Linda English

Jim & Mary Failing

Peggy Finch

Philip & Kelley Fraccola

Michael Garver

Cathy Georgianna

Terese Ginocchetti

Kelly Glisson

Katherine Guadagno &
Camille Hicks

Debra & Matthew Gunter

William Guyder

Bernice S. Hall

Dawn Hannon

Jane Helmer

Kimberlee Hodge

INDIVIDUALS, continued

John Hollerbush
John Honold
Cynthia L. Hubbard
Tamika E. Hudson
Linda Hughes
Kelly Jackson
Ann Janson
James Jones
Thomas Jones
Edwin J. & Susan L.
Kelley, Jr.
John Kilbourn
Brian Keys
Cynthia Kwiek
Laura Little
Paul Little
Laurie Luce
Rose Lumia
Karen Lynch
Jim Lyon

Richelle Maki
William Magnarelli
Mrs. Leonard C. (Anne)
Maier, Jr.
Donna Marra
Wade & Patricia Marvin
Steve McBride
Kevin McCarthy
Nancy McCarty
Tom & Lynne McKeown
Robyn Mitchell
Dr. Nicholas Moffa
Colleen & Joseph Murphy
Karen Nardella
Deirdre C. Neilen
Alice Newgarden
Tracey Noel
Steven O'Keefe
Rosemary Oleson
Gary Panebianco
Terra Peckskamp

George & Mary Pelrah
Gerald & Christine Phelps
John Pike
Mary Ann Rodriguez
Sue Rogers
Victor Romaine
Brenda Rozzano
Ann Russell
Judy Ruston
Bryan Rutledge
Karen Santy
Donald & Anne Scholl
Nicholas Scheel
Jennifer Schulz
Carl Scouten
William & Martha Schaefer
Brian Sennett
Nancy Singer
James Skvorak
Thomas Slater
Richard C. Smardon

Deborah Snyder
Leonore (Lee) Sperino
Sharon Stack
Anne Stieber
Kathleen Stribley
Pamela Totonelly
Wendy M.H. Van Der Bogart
Linda Vanderhoof
Tammy Vecchiarelli
Alvar VonSneidern
Tim Walus
Ericka Whitney
Luanne Wilson
Florence Wright
Lisa Mae Yurtserver
Grace Zabel
Sharon Zimmerman
Diane & Dale Zych

FISCAL YEAR 2007 (JULY 1, 2006 TO JUNE 30, 2007)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION¹

ASSETS	
Current Assets	1,338,000
Property & Equipment	2,140,000
Total Assets	3,478,000
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	987,000
Long-Term Debt	1,030,000
Net Assets	1,461,000
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	3,478,000

Note 1: figures rounded to the nearest thousand.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Grant Revenue	1,859,000
Program Revenue	6,064,000
United Way of Central New York	213,000
Donations	30,000
Other Income	63,000
Total Support and Revenue	8,229,000

EXPENSES	
Support Services	3,143,000
Oswego Operations	1,996,000
Mental Health Services	1,234,000
Employment Services	492,000
Integrated Recreation Services	184,000
Advocacy Services	141,000
Technology Services	43,000
General and Admin Services	934,000
Total Expenses	8,167,000
Change in Net Assets	62,000

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 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, please call Human Resources at (315) 472-3171.



Support

ARISE

ARISE MAIN OFFICE

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

OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE

9 Fourth Avenue
Oswego, NY 13126
Phone: (315) 342-4088
TTY: (315) 342-8696

PULASKI OFFICE

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

FULTON OFFICE

113 Schuyler Street, Suite 1
Fulton, New York 13069
(315) 297-4149

MADISON COUNTY OFFICE

121 Oneida Street
Oneida, NY 13421
Phone: (315) 363-4672
TTY: (315) 363-2364

ARISE AT THE FARM

1972 New Boston Road
Chittenango, NY 13037
(315) 687-6727

www.ariseinc.org

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Portions of this publication are available in alternative formats upon request.

Please contact our Information and Referral Specialist at (315) 472-3171.



United Way
of Central New York



United Way
of Greater Oswego County

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