Annual Report

Believing We Can



ARISE 2008

Our Mission

MISSION

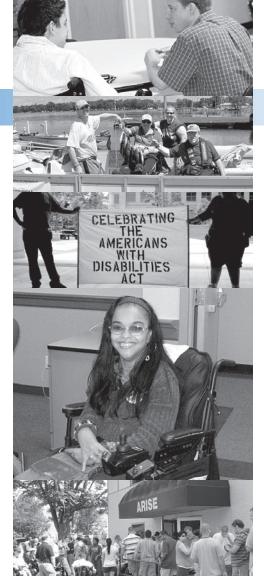
ARISE's mission is to work with people of all abilities to create a fair and just community in which everyone can fully participate.

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



2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Don Scholl. Vice President

Mitch Mitchell. Treasurer

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Our Message

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If there was one news story that captivated the national media in 2008, it was the presidential election. From early primaries and caucuses in Iowa and New Hampshire in the beginning of the year, to the party conventions, and finally to election night in November, the campaigns and candidates dominated the news

At ARISE, we know that voting in elections is one of the most important ways a person can advocate for himself or herself, and we encourage everyone to register and vote. To further that goal, we made available for testing a new ballot-marking device that Onondaga and Oswego Counties used in the 2008 election to assure an independent and private vote by people with disabilities.

On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States, and his message was one similar to one we encourage at ARISE. In his inaugural address, Mr. Obama outlined problems and hardships currently faced by America, but he also encouraged citizens to overcome the challenges with their combined commitments.

People with disabilities face challenges every day. We at ARISE work to ensure that people of all abilities have the opportunity to eliminate barriers and reach their fullest potential. We offer programs that maximize independence, advocate for people with disabilities, and believe that all people have the right to work towards their personal goals.

This annual report will show that throughout the year, the spirit at ARISE is the same as the message in Mr. Obama's presidential campaign: Yes we can.

Executive Director

Board President

Tania S. ander

Our Programs & Services

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:

ADVOCACY

Individual Advocacy (helping individuals develop self-advocacy skills)

- Benefits
- Education
- Health Care
- Housing

Systems Advocacy (helping to change policies & remove barriers)

Project Emerge – Working to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities

Advocacy & Support Groups

EMPLOYMENT

Benefits Advisement
Supported Employment
Vocational Peer Mentoring
635 Staffing – Services for Business
High School Transition Program
Start-Up NY

RECREATION

ARISE at the Farm (accessible recreation facility for people of all abilities)

ARISE & Fish

ARISE & Ski

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Accessibility Resource Center Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Program

Day Habilitation – Group & Individual Housing

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

Independent Living Skills Training

Information and Referral

Medical Equipment Loan Closet

Peer Counseling

Regional Resource Center for Persons

with Brain Injury

Residential Habilitation

Respite Program – After School

Service Coordination

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DID YOU KNOW?

Independent Living Services, the largest programmatic area at ARISE, served over 1,800 consumers in Onondaga and Madison Counties and nearly 700 in Oswego County. These numbers include only the individuals who received more intensive services, often requiring one-on-one time with ARISE staff. Many more people received information and referral services.

DID YOU KNOW?

With support from the United Way of Central New York, ARISE's **Outpatient Mental Health Clinic** saw a 25% increase in admissions in 2008, and added a new psychiatrist to the staff. Programs within **the Clinic** continue to grow.

The Clinic partners with the SUNY Upstate Medical University's **Designated AIDS Center** (DAC) by providing two therapists who work with individuals and families to stabilize and adjust to their HIV status and related illnesses.

As part of the **School-Based Mental Health program**, a 21st Century Grant at Dr. Weeks Elementary supported an afterschool program facilitated by an ARISE Play Therapist.

January

ARISE & SKI

January 12—February 17: ARISE & Ski enjoyed another successful year with 70 participants during this winter's ski season. ARISE & Ski takes pride in its ability to offer accommodations to people of all ages and all abilities. A three-year \$10,000 grant from Alliance Bank helped ARISE & Ski purchase new equipment, increasing significantly the opportunity to include downhill skiers who have disabilities.

In addition to the grant from Alliance Bank, the program is made possible through the dedication of 150 people who volunteer their time each ski season, and an ongoing partnership and support from Jim Hickey and the staff of Toggenburg Winter Sports Center in Fabius, NY.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Regional Resource Development Center (RRDC) at ARISE coordinates services for adults with brain injuries in an eight-county area.

In 2008, the **RRDC** served almost 250 people on the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver program, added two new providing agencies and expanded the services two existing agencies provide.

HABILITATION FOR LIFE OPENS IN OSWEGO

January: The Oswego office launched Habilitation for Life, a program that serves individuals with disabilities, focusing on consumer needs through individualized long term and short term life goals, community integration, self empowerment, and self advocacy.

Services include social/communication skills, recreational opportunities, travel training, life safety skills, money management, housekeeping skills, and strategies for behavior modification.

ARISE is partnering with the Psychology Department of SUNY Oswego to evaluate outcomes and develop best practices.

February

March

April

MORE FUN IN THE SNOW

February 18—22: ARISE at the Farm hosted our annual Winter Camp, a week-long integrated horsemanship camp that also features general recreation. Eight children from Madison County were able to attend through sponsorships from the Central New York Developmental Services Office Family Support Services.

DID YOU KNOW?

ARISE at the Farm is an accessible integrated recreational facility located on a 76-acre working horse farm in Chittenango, NY. In addition to adaptive and therapeutic horseback riding, **ARISE at the Farm** includes integrated recreation programs and camps year round!





BREAST HEALTH AWARENESS & OUTREACH TO WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

April 1: The Central New York Affiliate Susan G. Komen for the Cure awarded ARISE a grant to increase breast health awareness



and education for women with disabilities. Research shows that women with disabilities are at a greater risk for not detecting breast cancer at an early stage. Obtaining a screening exam can be a significant challenge for many women with disabilities in part because of inaccessibility of the medical equipment, lack of transportation, or the lack of education focused on women with disabilities.

ARISE's Breast Health Awareness and Outreach for Women with Disabilities provides small group education sessions and an intensive outreach program across a three-county area. Our goals are to increase the number of women with disabilities over the age of 35 who receive annual mammograms and to increase the number of women who perform regular monthly breast self-examinations.

May

June

July



Photograph: Harrison Wilde, Palladium Times

GRAND OPENING OF NEW OSWEGO OFFICE LOCATION!

July 8: ARISE Oswego celebrated the opening of our new office on 9 Fourth Avenue in Oswego, New York. Attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house were representatives from Governor Paterson's office, the Oswego County Legislature, the City of Oswego Common Council, the Oswego Chamber of Commerce, members of local businesses and agencies, members of the ARISE Board of Directors, the ARISE Oswego Advisory committee, consumers, their families, and staff. Artists previously featured in UNIQUE magazine loaned artwork for the event.

ARISE Oswego paired the celebration with an open house for guests to tour the new office and to find out about the many programs offered in Oswego County.

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Residential Habilitation Program** (Res Hab) at ARISE, provided in Onondaga, Oswego, and Madison Counties, helps people with disabilities achieve personal goals and increase independence.

Res Hab in Onondaga County continued to grow and served 80 adults and youth with disabilities. **Res Hab** in Oswego County grew by over 10% and reached nearly 70 people. In addition to helping participants in their homes, staff and participants used community resources to enhance personal skills and make it possible for participants to remain in their own homes.

August

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ANNIVERSARY MARCH

July 21: ARISE continued our tradition of partnering with Enable, Aurora of CNY, the ACLU, Unique Peerspectives, the Spanish Action League, Arc of Onondaga, Vera House and other local agencies to celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Over 130 people including consumers, family members, staff, and other supporters of disability rights marched from ARISE's James Street office to Syracuse's downtown Federal Building where Syracuse Common Councilor Van B. Robinson, representing the Mayor of Syracuse, and Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney proclaimed July as Disabilities Awareness month.

Congressman James Walsh, retiring after years of service, received an award for his ongoing support of and service to the disability community and disability issues.

DID YOU KNOW?

ARISE and our community partners support many **Advocacy Groups**, which work to remove the barriers that keep people with disabilities from fully integrating in the community.

Advocacy Groups are available on a wide range of topics of interest to the disability community, and focus on specific issues and work together to advocate for change.







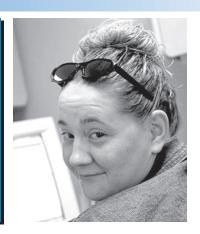
September

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR EMPLOYMENT ACCESS

September 18: ARISE received a grant from the Allen Speiser Memorial Fund to purchase a 22" flat screen monitor, an adaptive keyboard and mouse, and assistive software that includes screen reading, voice recognition, screen magnification, word prediction, and on-screen keyboards.

The new assistive technology is available to enhance the job readiness of more than 150 individuals with disabilities who take advantage of ARISE's employment services each year.

In addition to getting help with job seeking and placement services, the new purchases will give people hands-on experience using technology that enhances their employment skills. These skills are easily transferred to the work place and can increase people's ability to obtain competitive employment.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University, in partnership with ARISE and other community organizations, created **START-UP NY**, a program that provides people with disabilities self-employment opportunities. It is one of only three such programs funded by the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Policy (ODEP).

Since the program began over two years ago, **START-UP NY** has helped over 100 people. Forty-eight have attended ARISE's benefits planning sessions designed to help understand how Social Security benefits are affected by self-employment income, and what work incentives and self-employment subsidies are available.

Sixteen people opened an IDA which is a matched savings program offered through Cooperative Federal Savings Bank. Two have an approved PASS PLAN that allows them to set aside money to start a business without losing their current benefits, and twenty-five **START-UP NY** participants now own and operate a business.

October

DID YOU KNOW?

ARISE Service Coordination helps participants develop individualized plans and access needed community resources.

Service Coordination in Onondaga County increased by over 10% in 2008 and reached over 200 participants. In Oswego County, Service Coordination grew by another 10 participants, working with almost 250 people.

UNIQUE

October 16: The 8th annual publication of UNIQUE was unveiled at the Delavan Art Gallery. More than 150 people crowded the gallery, including artists, their family and friends who enjoyed the artwork and live music by the Clinton String Quartet. Senator John DeFrancisco, whose Arts, Culture and Heritage grant provided support for UNIQUE 2008, offered inspiring words to the artists and the community.

William Delavan, Gallery Director, asked that two sculptures "George McRooster" and "Surfin' Pirate" remain on display at the Delavan for several weeks to give visitors time to enjoy the fun-spirited creativity of the works.

UNIQUE, an art and literary magazine, is coordinated and published by ARISE, and is the only publication of its kind in the Central New York area featuring creative works by artists with disabilities.







October

CANDIDATE FORUM ON DISABILITY ISSUES

October 23: ARISE's Consumer Council in collaboration with several local agencies organized a Candidate Forum on Disability Issues at the Rosamond Gifford Community Room of united Way. Over 90 people with disabilities and disability rights supporters attended a discussion with local political candidates focusing on topics of interest to the disability community.

Topics included support for statewide Visitability legislation to create basic access in new single home construction, support for the federal legislation Community Choice Act that will shift federal Medicaid funding to community-based services, the need for Medicare reform, support for consumer-directed programs, and the need for more public transportation in suburban areas.



November

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY

October – November 3: In both Onondaga and Oswego Counties, ARISE made available for testing new ballot marking devices that support the right to an independent and private vote of people with disabilities.

The device has adaptive attachments and audio capabilities, making it accessible for people with visual impairments or reach and hand dexterity limitations. The technology makes it possible for some area residents to vote independently for the first time in their lives.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP), which allows people with disabilities to direct their own assistance needs, grew again in 2008.

By December, **CDPAP** in Onondaga County worked on behalf of over 90 participants per month, who collectively directed nearly 2,000 hours of personal assistance monthly.

In Oswego County, **CDPAP** supported on average over 100 people monthly and directed around 4,000 hours of personal assistance each month!

December

FORTY UNDER 40 HONORS ARISE OSWEGO STAFF

December 11: Heather Lee and James Purdy, two employees of ARISE in Oswego, were honored in the third biannual "Forty under 40" breakfast tribute at SUNY Oswego. "Forty under 40" recognizes forty community members who are under 40 years of age who have made a difference in the community.

Heather, a Teen Group Coordinator, and James, a Service Coordinator, not only work for ARISE, but also volunteer in their communities of Oswego and Pulaski respectively. Congratulations to Heather and James, great examples of, and inspiration to, the entire ARISE team!





DID YOU KNOW?

ARISE's Oswego office, in partnership with members of the First Methodist Church in Oswego, installed 22 ramps through new construction or moving existing structures. Constructing ramps and making other accessibility modifications ensures that people with disabilities can live independently in their communities.

The ongoing project provides access to the community for families without the financial resources to construct a ramp. Private donations and a \$10,000 grant from Senator Wright paid for the building materials. Volunteers from the church provided labor, and support from the United Way in Oswego allowed ARISE to screen persons requiring ramps and provide support.

BROADWAY STARS

December: ARISE at the Farm Broadway Stars participants saw Polar Express at the Museum of Science and Technology. Participants played at the museum in addition to seeing the movie in the IMAX Theater.

This trip was the third Broadway Stars outing of the year, with previous trips to see *Spamalot* in October and *The Magic Flute* in November.

2008 marked the year when the **Broadway Stars** program received annual funding from the CNY Developmental Services Office, making possible more outings in years to come!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

ARISE would like thank the many individuals, companies, charitable organizations and government agencies that provided financial and in-kind support in 2008. Your generosity helped us better advocate for the interests of individuals with disabilities who live in our community.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We also extend our gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers who offered their time and talent to ARISE programs in 2008.

You helped make our community better for everyone whether advocating for disability rights, supporting a Farm event, or working in our offices.

Thank you!

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Adam's Apple Services, Inc.

Alliance Bank

The Benevolent Association of Firefighters of Oswego

Bonadio Management Advisory Services

Bond, Schoeneck & King

Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company Employee Giving Program

Burton Blatt Institute: Centers of Innovation on Disability at Syracuse University

Buyea's True Value

Cardinal Health

Cazenovia Lumber & Oil

Constellation Energy

First United Methodist Church of Oswego

First Universalist Church (Central Square)

Fraternal Order of Police, Central New York, John C. Dillon Lodge #315

Fred's Motor Sports

Hawthorne Property Services, LLC

Jack Hafner's Restaurant & Tavern

Huntington Family Centers, Inc.

INFICON, Inc.

Lafayette Central Schools, Grimshaw Elementary

National Grid

New Process Gear Division of Magna Powertrain

P. Drescher Co., Inc.

Parents of Special Children, Inc.

P.E.A.C.E., Inc.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Rasmussen Excavation

Stack Veterinary Hospital

Sunny Day Nursery School

SUNY Upstate Medical University
Designated AIDS Center

Tartaglia Railroad Services

Time Warner Cable

Toggenburg Mountain Winter Sports
Center

Tractor Supply Company

Vera House, Inc.

Willard F. Prior PTO

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS & GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Allen Speiser Memorial Vocational Rehabilitation Fund

Cazenovia Community Chest

Central New York Affiliate Susan G. Komen for the Cure

Central New York Community Foundation

Central Square Central School District

City of Syracuse Department of Community Development

Community Health Foundation of Western & Central New York

Decentralization Grant Program of the Cultural Resources Council

DeFrancisco Partnership Projects for Arts and Culture of the Cultural Resources Council

Maier Family Community Fund

Mexico Academy and Central School District NYS Department of Health

NYS Department of Education -Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities

NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

NYS Office of Mental Health

NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, CNY Developmental Services Office

Onondaga County Community Development Department

Onondaga County Department of Mental Health

Onondaga County Department of Social Services

Oswego City-County Youth Bureau

Oswego County Department of Social Services

Syracuse City School District Syracuse Community Health Center

United Way of Central New York

United Way of Greater Oswego County

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

Tania Anderson
Chris Arnold & Ellen
Youmans
Sara F. Austin-Wilson
Gene & Shirley Beckeman
Travis M. Bell
Margaret A. Biddlecome
Albert J. Blazey, Jr. & Mary
C. Dunn
The Bonafiglia Family
Michael J. Bonner
Mark Botwinick
Sedalia A. Brown-Harrison
James & Beverly Buck

Randie L. Burrows

James A. Capodagli

Dennis & Christine Byrne

Richard Burtis

Jerard Carroll

Rod J. Carter Jennifer Cohen Bridget L. Conklin Robin S. Cook Dennis Coon Cynthia Cooper Sherry Corydell Michele Cousineau William & Joanne Curran Angelo & Theresa Damiano Thomas R. D'Angelo Carol Davenport George & Carol A. Davenport Susan I Dean Alice Dixon Joseph D. & Dr. Nienke P. Dosa Susan DuLac Diane Emm Scott & Linda English

Mary C. Failing Barbara Falkowski Dale M. Fanning Donna M. Ferris Cathy E. Fischer Paul W. Francher Rudy Friedberg Bob & Pam Getek Jean Getsy Sue-Lynn R. Gigon Terri L. Gondeck William Goodno Molly L. Goodwin Ann B. Gorton William T. Guyder Janet Haskins Jane Helmer Andrew T. Henshaw Jeremy Holden Stephanie L. Hole

John E. Hollerbush Cynthia B. Honors Kathleen Hopkins Thomas M. Jones Robert & Cheryl Kantak John E. Kilbourn Mary C. Kilpatrick Ler Kler & Lu Lu Naw Andy Kudarauskas Cynthia J. Kwiek Ellen LeClaire Tracy Lloyd Jennifer L. MacLaury Richelle M Maki Donna J. Marra Nancy K. McCarty Mary Ellen McDonald Tom & Linda McKeown Theresa M. Michels Marian Miller

Dr. Nicholas Moffa Alice Newgarden Terrance E. O'Brien Steven F. O'Keefe Gary W. Panebianco Donald & Donna Perricone Lvdia Pettv Dr. Paul E. Phillips Kari E. Redmond Michael & Jeanne Riley Maudie Ritchie Charles L. Roberts Susan Rogers Michael Roziock Vicki Sacco Alfred Sahm Deborah A. Sandy Jackie Scheel Nicholas Scheel Jennifer A. Schulz

Mary C. Scimone Yvonne Scott-Younis John P. Sewak Susan Sindoni John & Marilyn Skopek Thomas Slater Robin Smith Terry L. Spears Stanley Stage Richard S. Steele Angela Steinberg Darryl G. Storie Karen N. Strache Kathleen A. Stribley Joan Swales Penelope F. Talomie Louis & Kathleen Testoni Susan Thomas Mary Ellen Troch Deborah K. Trojano

John Valenti Wendy M.H. Van Der Bogart Kathy Van Lare Linda L. Vanderhoof Arthur & Beverly Vinette Alvar VonSneidern Steve Waldron James A. Walker Donald C. Walshvelo Susan E. Werner Ericka S. Whitney Bruce Wichmann Kristin E. Wilburn Susan Williams Mary Woodhouse Grace M. Zabel Donald & Rosemarie Zellers

Support

HOW YOU CAN HELP

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 can 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 **secure** online contribution from our website at:

www.ariseinc.org

For information about volunteering, please call Human Resources at (315) 472-3171.

Thank you again for supporting ARISE.



Financial Report

FISCAL YEAR 2008 (JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008)¹

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS			
Current Assets	1,716,000		
Property & Equipment	2,221,000		
Total Assets	3,937,000		
LIABILITIES AND NET	ASSETS		
LIABILITIES AND NET Current Liabilities	ASSETS 1,186,000		
Current Liabilities	1,186,000		
Current Liabilities Long-Term Debt	1,186,000 1,179,000		

Note 1: figures rounded to the nearest thousand

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVE	PORT AND REVENUE	
Grant Revenue	2,230,000	
Program Revenue	7,168,000	
United Way of		
Central New York	213,000	
Donations	38,000	
Other Income	38,000	
Total Support and		
Revenue	9,687,000	

EXPENSES	
Consumer Support	
Services	3,446,000
Oswego Operations	2,457,000
Mental Health Services	1,488,000
Employment Services	570,000
Madison County	
Services	350,000
Integrated Recreation	
Services	171,000
Advocacy Services	122,000
Technology Services	44,000
General and Admin	
Services	940,000
Total Expenses	9,588,000
Change in Net Assets	99,000



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.



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