

ARISE

2020-2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

A photograph of two horses standing in a snowy field during sunset. The horse on the left is a paint horse with dark spots, and the horse on the right is a solid dark horse. The background shows a line of trees and a sky with soft, golden light from the setting sun.

*In the midst of every crisis, lies
great opportunity.*

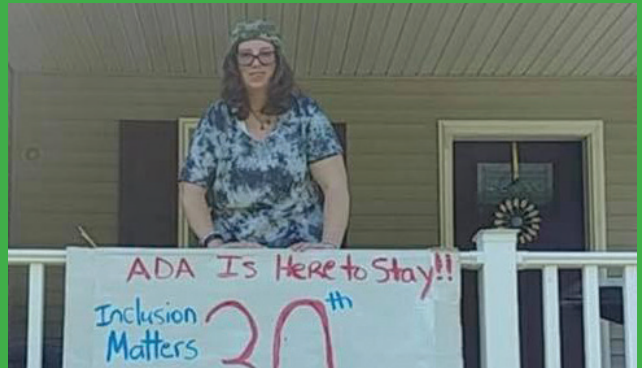
Albert Einstien

Our mission encompasses four key elements of the Independent Living Philosophy

Individual Control



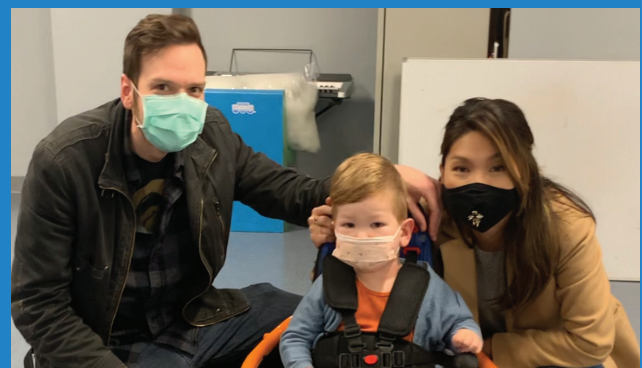
Advocacy



Civil Rights Orientation



Cross Disability Representation



ARISE

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A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Tania S. Anderson



Opportunity.

During the crisis of the COVID pandemic, we as a society have seen huge opportunities for change. As an agency, ARISE is no different.

As this report demonstrates, the crisis accelerated our move to telehealth services in our mental health clinic and many other programs. Like so many businesses, it gave us the opportunity to change the way we work with a hybrid model of working from an office and working from home. Funding attributable to pandemic relief gave ARISE the opportunity to directly help people in need. It also allowed us to make business decisions that will pay off for years to come and afford us additional fiscal strength in these very uncertain times.

Public attention focused on the need to keep people safe in the community rather than having them live in institutions. ARISE used this opportunity to highlight the Independent Living Philosophy and the critical work we have done for more than 40 years in providing community-based services and supports to keep people in their homes and fully included in our neighborhoods. Even the nationwide shortage of direct care staff gives ARISE the opportunity to tell the stories of these workers' impact and advocate for their higher pay.

We know that people with disabilities do not enjoy the same opportunities as other segments of our society, whether it comes to education, jobs or basic access to buildings and transportation. The core of ARISE's work is to recognize the power of people with disabilities in demanding equal opportunities and access. That work was relevant before the pandemic and will be relevant when COVID is past us. And ARISE will be here to do the work.

ARISE

2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Advocacy in Action

As a nation we are experiencing a labor shortage across all business sectors. At ARISE, we depend on direct care staff to facilitate access to the community for people with disabilities and keep them out of institutional settings. Low government rates for crucial direct care services mean that workers receive low pay, compounding the problem. In July 2021, the New York State Senate conducted a

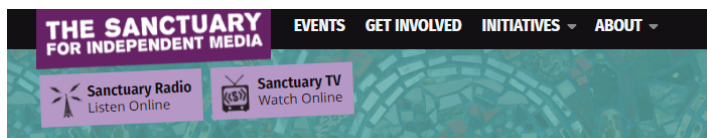


joint hearing about the challenges facing home care and long-term care. ARISE CEO Tania Anderson testified before the Senate committees on Aging, Health and Labor about the need to increase pay levels for direct care workers supporting people with physical and developmental disabilities. She told a powerful story about an ARISE consumer who could no longer live in his own home and ended up in a nursing home because of low pay and staff shortages.

Watch Anderson's testimony here→

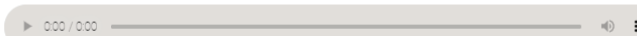


ARISE Board of Directors President Agnes McCray also testified before the lawmakers about the problem of low pay and staffing shortages. McCray said her own independence is affected by the persistent problem. McCray participated in a demonstration outside of the State Capitol building to make the public aware of the crisis situation. She also spoke to The Sanctuary for Independent Media (@MediaSanctuary) about the fair pay issue.



July 27, 2021

Fair Pay for Home Care



[Listen on SoundCloud](#)



Agnes McCray works for ARISE in Syracuse, which is part of the independent living center network across the state (Membership organization is New York Association on Independent Living). She testified alongside others supportive of the NY Caring Majority.

Katy Carroll, disabled woman from the Capital Region and volunteer with NY Caring majority, interviewed Agnes and shared this: The Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA turned 31 years old on Monday, and it is not just about nondiscrimination in employment, curb cuts/ramps, accessible restrooms at your favorite restaurant, or lifts

on buses. Homecare for people who need services and supports at home is also part of the right to community integration. For people like Agnes McCray, it is essential but her access to it is far from readily available.

NY Caring Majority www.nycaringmajority.org. NYCM recently launched ICantFindHomeCare.com to help gather data on the extent of the homecare workforce shortage.



Read The Sanctuary for Independent Media story.

Melanie Hartzheim,
Chair

Katy Turner,
Treasurer

Janice Vitale,
Secretary

Tania S. Anderson

Ray Carney

David Dreverman

Janelle Fields

Agnes McCray

Connor McGough

Patrick Nichols

Julia Nosovitch

Maria Visco

THE ARISE FOUNDATION

The ARISE Foundation achieved a milestone in 2021, marking a decade of marshalling resources to meet the needs of people with disabilities in Central New York. The ARISE Foundation was established in 2011 to ensure the future of ARISE services for generations to come. Your gift to the ARISE Foundation makes it possible for us to respond to emerging demands and to continue to provide the highest quality services for people with any kind of disability.

Contributions to the ARISE Foundation are a strong statement of your belief in the rights of every person to live full and independent lives of their choosing.

You can be a part of the work of the Foundation through individual contributions, planned giving and support for special events.

The ARISE Board of Directors and the ARISE Foundation Board of Directors work closely with a shared vision. We invite you to join us in our efforts to achieve independence and access for all.

If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to become involved in the ARISE Foundation, please contact Tim Mahar, Director of Advancement, at (315) 671-2903 or email at tmahar@ariseinc.org.

10
years!

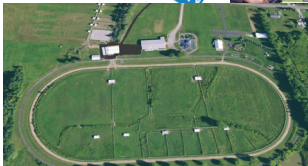


ARISE Timeline

ARISE starts wheels in motion



Five in Wheelchairs Block Path of Bus



Two nonprofit agencies plan merger

ARISE gets a new home

The agency hopes to be operating out of James Street site in December.

By Nancy Brunick Staff writer

ARISE Child and Family Ser-

UNIQUE



ARISE Madison County

ARISE foundation



ARISE ADAPTIVE DESIGN



1979



1982

1989

1990

1996

1998

1999

2001

2003

2009

2011

2014

2017

2019

2020

ARISE begins as Alternatives for Reaching Independence through Services and Engineering, an "independent living project" of the United Cerebral Palsy and Handicapped Children's Association of Syracuse (now AccessCNY).

ARISE incorporates as a 501(c)3 non-profit, becoming one of eight original Independent Living Centers in New York State. The organization advocates for the rights of individuals with disabilities and champions accessibility in the built environment through programs like the Ramp Program.

After several protests to make public transportation in Syracuse more accessible Centro equips 53 buses with accessible lifts, a significant achievement for ARISE advocates.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush.

ARISE creates the ARISE & Ski program at Toggenburg and establishes an Independent Living Center in Oswego County.

ARISE at the Farm, an inclusive recreation center and horse farm, is established in Chittenango.

ARISE merges with Child and Family Service, expanding its service offerings to include mental health counseling.

ARISE publishes the first edition of UNIQUE magazine, featuring artwork by individuals with disabilities.

ARISE moves its main offices to 635 James Street, allowing for continued growth and greater community access.

ARISE opens an Independent Living Center in Madison County.

ARISE establishes the ARISE Foundation. The Everson Museum exhibits UNIQUE artwork.

ARISE merges with Options for Independence, becoming the designated Independent Living Center for Cayuga County.

ARISE completes a fully accessible playground at ARISE at the Farm and opens it to the public.

ARISE welcomes the Adaptive Design program.

ARISE begins renovations to 635 James Street.

ARISE relocates its Madison County Independent Living Center and builds a Barn Addition, both at ARISE at the Farm.

ARISE

2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Mental Health Clinic

Clients served: 2267 | In person visits - 6070 | Phone visits - 18095 | Telehealth visits - 19315
Grand Total - 43480



The numbers tell it all – the ARISE Mental Health Clinic is meeting a significant need for services in our community. Our skilled staff conducted an all-time high of nearly 44,000 sessions with clients in the past year, including emergency referrals involving people in crisis. A staff of about 45 clinicians and 5 contracted and employed psychiatrists work every day to deliver person-centered services to clients and give them the tools they need to meet goals they set.

When businesses everywhere were shutting down in March 2020, the ARISE Mental Health Clinic acted quickly. With the support of ARISE's Information Technology team, clinic staff converted to telehealth services in the space of nine days. This allowed us to continue to connect not only with clients who visited our clinics at 635 James Street in Syracuse and 113 Schuyler Street in Fulton but also with the hundreds of children who normally see ARISE professionals working out of satellite offices in public schools in Onondaga and Oswego counties.

As the pandemic endured and the need for services increased, clinic staff set up an instant access program so that someone who needed to be seen right away could do so without major delays. During the pandemic, the clinic received as many emergency referrals in the space of a week that it used to see in a month. The acuity of these cases has intensified and often involves children.



Our staff paid special attention to adapting telehealth to meet the needs of their child clients, who had shorter attention spans and greater reluctance to engage with their therapists through a device. The clinic quickly set up groups of mental health professionals to talk about and share best practices that help children cope without meeting face to face. Those successful strategies were shared with other mental health care professionals in New York.



The COVID-19 crisis presented the opportunity for the ARISE Mental Health Clinic to successfully convert to telehealth and other innovative ways to connect with clients. The New York State Office of Mental Health recertified our clinic in March 2021, giving us high marks during a virtual audit. The state also approved the clinic for providing telehealth services even after the COVID emergency ends.

ARISE

2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Community Programs and Services

Clients served: 1,555



The hallmark of ARISE's services for people with developmental disabilities is that everything we do is in the community. Similarly, our programs involving long-term services and supports for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions is all about keeping them in the community and out of institutional settings like nursing homes.

So how does this work happen during a pandemic and lockdown? The staff at ARISE were innovative, creative, persistent and diligent, always keeping safety and the needs of individuals at the forefront.



Some Community Habilitation services could take place using telehealth. When person-to-person work was necessary, ARISE made sure that everyone was safe. We balanced the needs of our Direct Support Professionals (DSP) taking care of their own families during lockdown with the need to use DSPs to connect with our individuals. For example, we had regulatory flexibility to allow our DSPs to run errands for individuals so they could have essentials like medicine and food.



Direct care staff in our Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program performed heroic hands-on work to consumers who depend on them for basic needs like bathing, getting dressed and keeping their households functioning. When nursing homes were seeing tragic outbreaks of the virus, our consumers and their personal care assistants experienced extremely low rates of COVID-19 infections.



Speaking of nursing homes, our skilled staff managed to transition 73 people out of institutions during 2020 and 28 for the first three quarters of 2021. ARISE supported another 12 people in the community who had recently transitioned.

And in a time when nothing was normal, ARISE was able to oversee its summer recreation programs at ARISE at the Farm. With safety protocols in place, 98 kids and adults had fun during the summers of 2020 and 2021!

ARISE

2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Advocacy Programs and Services

Clients served: 1,117

Advocacy is a core tenant of the Independent Living Philosophy and at the heart of everything we do. That didn't change during the pandemic.

When people were waiting to be discharged from nursing homes or rehab facilities, ARISE's Ramp Program in Oswego County provided easy and quick-to-install aluminum ramps to allow them to access their homes. ARISE is expanding the Ramp program into Madison and Cayuga counties. No ongoing funding exists for ramps in these rural counties. ARISE coordinates volunteers and donations to get the work done.



The ARISE Education Advocacy team saw an opportunity to help parents and students navigate new technology so that kids could better participate in remote schooling. Our advocates also made sure that students' academic accommodations translated to the new environment. Digital meeting platforms led to an increase in parent/teacher meetings. Communication is the key to success.

Through a grant from the National Disability Institute, ARISE disbursed funds to help people with disabilities pay for back rent, food supplies, communication devices and personal protective equipment.



Our Adaptive Design team moved to a bigger and better-equipped facility at the main ARISE office in Syracuse. While in-person builds were on hold, we partnered with the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital and the Upstate Foundation to create an adaptive design kit about ARISE Adaptive Design.



Our staff and volunteers now are back in the workshop, creating custom solutions using tools like 3-D printing and materials like sturdy cardboard.

Even though nursing homes and other facilities closed during the pandemic, our Ombudsman staff and volunteers were busier than ever. They provide a vital connection between residents and their families and advocate for their needs.

Our New Independent Living Center and Barn

Renovations at ARISE at the Farm in late 2020 created an interdisciplinary Independent Living Center for Madison County. A new addition to our existing barn made space for ARISE's habilitation programs, education advocacy, independent living skills training and peer counseling. The addition contains more stalls for our horses and other improvements like a larger tack room. We also renovated existing offices and the kitchen area for staff. Our accessible playground and riding arenas remain open and busy!

Renovations were made possible in part through a grant from New York State's Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program (NICIP). ARISE is investing in its Farm facility to continue to meet the needs of Madison County. The Farm is a short drive from Onondaga, Oswego and Cayuga counties, and people from these areas are welcome visitors to the Farm. You will never forget the magic you experience at the Farm!



2020 Fiscal Year

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$9,675,793
Property & Equipment	\$2,967,287
Endowment Investments	\$66,459
Investment in LIFEPlan CCO, NY, LLC	\$100,000
Total Assets	\$12,809,539

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$3,179,680
Long-Term Liabilities	\$4,459,608
Net Assets	\$5,170,251
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$12,809,539

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

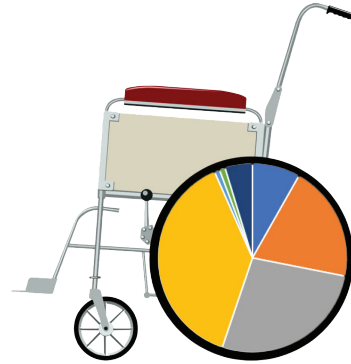
REVENUE

Independent Living and Advocacy	\$1,948,328.00
Mental Health Clinic	\$4,761,731.00
Developmental and Intellectual Disability	\$6,477,107.00
Aging Services	\$9,129,860.00
Foundation	\$221,672.00
Farm	\$236,691.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,125,393.00
Total Revenue	\$23,900,782.00

EXPENSES

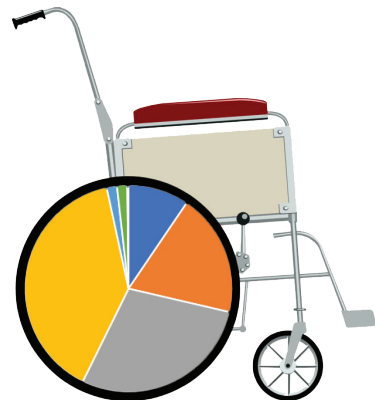
Independent Living and Advocacy	\$2,019,546.00
Mental Health Clinic	\$4,094,665.00
Developmental and Intellectual Disability	\$6,121,809.00
Aging Services	\$8,402,940.00
Foundation	\$331,264.00
Farm	\$336,085.00
Miscellaneous	\$38,964.00
Total Expenses	\$21,345,273.00

REVENUE



Independent Living and Advocacy	8.2%
Mental Health Clinic	19.9%
Developmental and Intellectual Disability	27.1%
Aging Services	38.2%
Foundation	0.9%
Farm	1.0%
Miscellaneous	4.7%

EXPENSES



Independent Living and Advocacy	9.5%
Mental Health Clinic	19.2%
Developmental and Intellectual Disability	28.7%
Aging Services	39.4%
Foundation	1.6%
Farm	1.6%
Miscellaneous	0.2%

2021 Fiscal Year

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$10,171,820
Property & Equipment	\$3,381,696
Endowment Investments	\$89,702
Investment in LIFEPlan CCO, NY, LLC	\$100,000
Total Assets	\$13,743,218

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$3,635,418
Long-Term Liabilities	\$4,028,565
Net Assets	\$6,079,235
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$13,743,218

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

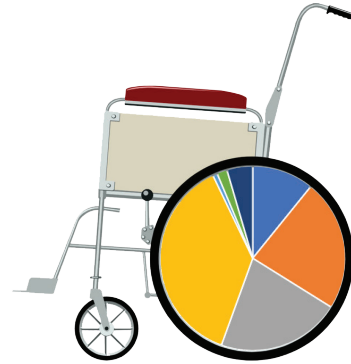
REVENUE

Independent Living and Advocacy	\$2,369,885
Mental Health Clinic	\$5,070,755
Developmental and Intellectual Disability	\$4,739,507
Aging Services	\$8,190,372
Foundation	\$172,312
Farm	\$386,647
Miscellaneous	\$991,427
Total Revenue	\$21,920,905

EXPENSES

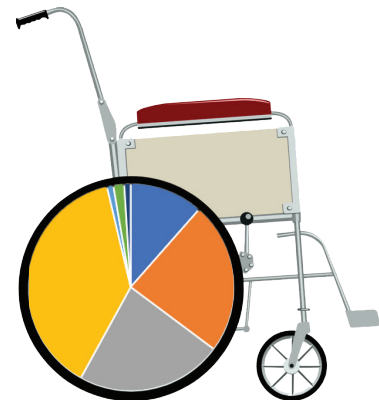
Independent Living and Advocacy	\$2,413,765
Mental Health Clinic	\$4,980,113
Developmental and Intellectual Disability	\$4,794,728
Aging Services	\$8,046,411
Foundation	\$211,747
Farm	\$363,335
Miscellaneous	\$201,821
Total Expenses	\$21,011,920

REVENUE



Independent Living and Advocacy	10.8%
Mental Health Clinic	23.1%
Developmental and Intellectual Disability	21.6%
Aging Services	37.4%
Foundation	0.8%
Farm	1.8%
Miscellaneous	4.5%

EXPENSES



Independent Living and Advocacy	11.5%
Mental Health Clinic	23.7%
Developmental and Intellectual Disability	22.8%
Aging Services	38.3%
Foundation	1.0%
Farm	1.7%
Miscellaneous	1.0%

Thank you to our donors!

ARISE and the ARISE Foundation are deeply grateful for the generosity of the individuals, organizations, and businesses who support our mission in Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cayuga, and Seneca counties. The following is a list of some of our donors who gave between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. **Thank You!**

\$10,000+

G & C Food Distributors and Brokers, Inc.
National Disability Institute
P. Drescher Co. Inc

\$5,000+

Tania S. Anderson
Central New York Community Foundation
FrontStream (formerly TRUiST)
Jim Marshall Farms Foundation, Inc.
James O. Marshall
Metcalf and French Foundations
Novelis Corporation

\$2,000 +

Michael Cook
DeWitt Community Church
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Stripe
United Way Of Central New York
Weitsman Shredding

\$1,000+

BNY Mellon Corporation's Community Partnership
Compass Credit Union
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INFICON, Inc.
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Thomas McKeown
Tecumseh Elementary

\$500+

Nirmala D. Bidani
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Jewelry On James
April Neave
Julia B. Nosovitch
Kyle O'Reilly
Shannon Paul
Rosemary Staversky
John N. VanPatten
Jack Webb
Ernie Wheeler

\$200+

Anonymous
James Asher
Tiffany Bird
Cazenovia Jewelry
Cella V Boutique
Francine Chilbert
Gerry & Lee Corasaniti
Ceme Curley
Susan Eldred
Exelon Foundation c/o CyberGrants
Alexis Fadian
Janelle Fields
Ted Garrison
Hal N. Hanlon
Mary and James Hettler
Iting Trout, LLC
Kristen Jackson
James Karasek
Cynthia Karczewski
Manlius Jewelry & Repair, Inc.
Marino Sporting Goods

Mark McAnaney
Joseph Megeed
Kristen Miguel
Network For Good
Andrea Pagano
Bill Pfohl
Victoria Reino
Margaret Romer
Dorothy A. Schmid
Shehadi, Inc.
John P. Sindoni
Lauren Smith
Iting Christina Trout
United Way of Greater Rochester
Lance Vella



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\$10,000+

Tania S. Anderson
Central New York Community
Foundation
P. Drescher Co. Inc.
Richard S. Shineman Foundation

The Bonadio Group
Callahan, Flanagan, Smith & Stock
Orthodontics
Daoundakis Family
Eaton Corporation
David Gates
Melanie & Thomas Hartzheim
Maurie Heins
Kinney Drugs Foundation, Inc.
Lori McCrohan
Thomas McKeown
Mediacom Communications Corporation
Janice I. Vitale

United Way Of Central New York
Jack Webb
Mark Yoder

\$5,000+

Autism Speaks, Inc.
G & C Food Distributors and Brokers,
Inc.
Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation
Susan & Edward Judge
Anthony Malavenda
Gerald Myers

\$500+

ARISE Board of Directors
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BNY Mellon
Garrett Dunsmoor Memorial
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Grace Communion of Central New York
Gutchess Lumber Co., Inc.
Joseph Hatfield
INFICON, Inc.
James V. Tesoriero Charitable Fund
David J. Tesoriero TTEE
JSD Associates
Melvin & Melvin, PLLC
Moravia Rotary Club Charitable Trust
MVP Health Care
Northland Communications
Novelis Corporation
Marjorie L. Phillips
Rich & Gardner Construction Company
Sullivan United Community Chest
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Tecumseh Elementary

\$200+

The Syracuse Mets
Anonymous
Anonymous
ARC of Onondaga
Jason Capron
Centro
Condominium Travel Club, Inc.
Ceme Curley
Betty DeFazio
Scott English
Exelon Foundation c/o
Cyber Grants
Daniel Gardner
Winston E. Gaum
Bethaida Gonzalez
Gray Wolves Senior Hockey
Hal N. Hanlon
Hansen's Advisory Services, Inc.
Mary and James Hettler
Joanne M. Holley
James Karasek
Logo Incentives
Karen M. Lynch
M.E.I.D. LLC Construction
Mark McAnaney
Colleen M. McKeon
Kristen Miguel
Moniraes Casual Dining &
Entertainment
National Grid
Andrea Pagano

\$2,000 +

Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
Bousquet Holstein PLLC
Brown & Brown Empire State
Carrols Restaurant Group, Inc.
Michael Cook
DeWitt Community Church
FrontStream (formerly TRUiST)
Haylor, Freyer & Coon
The M&T Charitable Foundation
Reefer Compressor and Parts, Inc.
United Community Chest of Cazenovia,
Fenner & Nelson
Visual Technologies

\$1,000+

ACC Technical Services
American Quarter Horse Foundation
Barclay Damon, LLP
BNY Mellon Corporation's Community
Partnership

\$200+ (continued)

Piccolo Properties LLC
Raymond Corporation
Roy Reehil
Margaret Romer
Sacred Heart/St. Ann's Church
Dorothy A. Schmid
Marilyn and John Skopek
Jim Skvorak
Samantha Steiner
Tall Pines Insurance Services, Inc.
Tessy Plastics
United Way of Broome County, Inc.
United Way of CNY/Anonymous
United Way of Greater St. Louis, Inc.
David Vinciguerra
Bob & Joanne Walsh
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Whelan and Curry Construction
Services, Inc.
Chad Whelsky
Woodforest Bank



OUR LOCATIONS

Main & Onondaga County Office

635 James Street
Syracuse, NY 13203
Office: (315) 472-3171

Oswego County Office

Creekside Plaza, 293 SR 104
Oswego, NY 13126
Office: (315) 342-4088

GRANTS



Administration for Community Living	Access to Vaccines
Cayuga County	Ramp Program
American Quarter Horse Foundation	Recreation
Autism Speaks	Recreation
Boeheim Foundation	After School Respite
Community Development Block Grant	
City of Auburn	Ramp Expansion
Community Development Block Grant	
City of Auburn	Freedom Camp
Community Development Block Grant	
City of Auburn	PCB Expansion
Community Development Block Grant	
City of Syracuse	Housing Advocacy
Community Development Block Grant	
Onondaga County	Housing Advocacy
Community Fund - Cayuga Fund	Ramp Expansion
Community Foundation	Mental Health Clinic
Empire State Supportive Housing	
Initiative(ESSHI)	Supportive Housing
HealtheConnections	Adaptive Design
Metcalf & French Foundations	Freedom Camp
National Disability Institute	Rent/Food Assistance
NY Education Department	Systems Advocacy
Oswego Community Fund COVID Fund	Aluminum Ramps
United Community Chest of Cazenovia	Farm Camp
United Way of Cayuga County	Recreation
United Way of Central New York	Education Advocacy
United Way of Greater Oswego County	Crisis Management & Employment
	Advocacy
United Way of Oswego County	Independent Living Advocacy

Fulton Mental Health Office

113 Schuyler Street, Suite 2
Fulton, NY 13069
Office: (315) 887-5156

Cayuga/Seneca County Office

21 Lincoln Street
Auburn, NY 13021
Office: (315) 255-3447

ARISE at the Farm/Madison County Office

1972 New Boston Rd
Chittenango, NY 13037
Farm: (315) 687-6727
Office: (315) 363-4672

ARISE Online:
www.ariseinc.org

Support **ARISE** Support **INDEPENDENCE**

**Your gift of \$10 a month gives hope and helps
Central New Yorkers live an independent life.**



Just \$10 a month increases access to mental health care, promotes one's journey to self-discovery, and wellness.



Your gift supports programs to enable independence and freedom.



Your monthly donation supports those seeking employment opportunities.



Your support makes it possible to meet new friends, learn riding skills, and have fun.



Your monthly contribution supports the freedom of independent living.



Your monthly donation provides services for students to learn in a supportive environment.



Your monthly support provides accessible housing for people who want to live independently.



Your monthly support makes it possible for artists and poets to realize their dreams.

**Your generous monthly gift of \$10.00 ensures that everyone regardless of disability has
the power to make life choices and achieve their dreams.
All of us working together support and strengthen our community.**

DONATE

