

ANNUAL REPORT



2024



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE A HOME

Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE A HOME



Mission

OCO inspires partnerships and provides services that empower people, support communities, and change lives

Vision

It is the vision of OCO to be a leader in providing easy to access and high impact services that ensure people have the resources to meet their basic needs, housing, transportation, health care, and skills for employment and self-sufficiency.

Diane Cooper-Currier

Executive Director



John Zanewych

Board President



As I reflect on the past year at OCO, I am filled with both pride and a deep sense of gratitude. 2024 was a year of growth, resilience, and unwavering commitment to our mission of serving the most vulnerable members of our community. I am humbled by the many ways in which we have worked to provide essential services, empower individuals, and build stronger, more compassionate places to live, work, and serve.

This year, we focused on the services that people call "home" at OCO. This simple phrase evokes powerful emotions – safety, comfort, belonging. For many of us, "home" is a given. But for individuals and families facing crisis, "home" can feel distant, even unattainable. These initiatives represent our ongoing efforts to not only address immediate needs but also to create long-term solutions that empower individuals to thrive. I am incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work of our staff, volunteers, and partners who work tirelessly to meet these needs so generously.

Thank you for being a part of the OCO family. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors and building a brighter future for our community. I am excited to see the positive impact OCO will have as we continue our vital work in the year ahead.

As Board President, I'm just so amazed by everyone at OCO. Our staff are truly dedicated – they pour their hearts into this work. And our volunteers? Their commitment is unwavering. And of course, we couldn't do this work without the generosity of our donors. It's because of all of them that OCO can do so much good for more than 15,000 people in our community annually. It's teamwork and compassion that keeps us focused on what's important: helping people, supporting communities, and changing lives.

I want to give a huge thank you to everyone who makes OCO possible. To my fellow board members, thank you for your leadership. To our staff, thank you for your hard work and dedication. And to our donors and volunteers – you are invaluable. Thank you for your support. Together, we're making a real difference for the people of Oswego County.



WHAT'S NEW AT OCO?

Expanding Educational and Employment Opportunities

OCO, in partnership with CiTi's Lifelong Learning Center, has established Literacy Zones in Fulton and Pulaski to address the challenges faced by individuals with limited literacy or English proficiency. Funded by the NY State Education Department, these zones aim to close the achievement gap in areas with high poverty rates.

The Literacy Zones provide crucial services. These initiatives offer a systemic approach to meeting the literacy needs of the community, from youth to adults, and provide essential support for educational and career advancement.



OCO & CiTi partner to bring Literacy Zones to Oswego County. From left are OCO Collaborative Manager Tina Eusepi, CiTi Case Manager Mary Bristol, OCO Site Manager Sarah Spataro, and Coordinator of Adult Programs at CiTi Amie Abold.

OCO Health Education Advocate Mackenzie Wilton (r) demonstrates the proper way to administer a rapid Hepatitis C test to YAHF Peer Specialist Morgan Buchanan (l) inside OCO's mobile testing van.



Rapid Hep-C Testing

In response to rising Hepatitis C cases, OCO Centers for Reproductive Health have implemented rapid Hepatitis C testing, becoming the first in Oswego County to offer this service. This initiative aligns with the new New York State mandate requiring Hepatitis C testing for all adults 18 and older, and at-risk individuals under 18.

The rapid testing allows for results within minutes, enabling prompt referrals for treatment and preventing serious complications like cirrhosis and liver failure. This expansion complements OCO's existing rapid STI testing services (HIV and syphilis), reinforcing its commitment to comprehensive reproductive health care and confidential, compassionate patient service.

OCO Partners with Fulton & Oswego Police

OCO's Health Homes partnered with the Fulton & Oswego Police Departments to address the growing issue of mental health and substance use disorder in Oswego County. By embedding a case manager within the police departments, OCO aims to provide immediate access to vital services and support for individuals in crisis. This collaboration, funded by a NY State Office of Mental Health grant, enhances the program's reach and enables police officers to connect individuals directly with care coordination, treatment options, and essential resources like housing and financial assistance. This initiative not only improves the well-being of those served but also reduces strain on emergency services and fosters a healthier community.



OCO & local police partner to address vital needs. From left OCO Coordinator of Health Access Services, Stacie France, Lt. Jarrett Marino, Lt. Brandon Lanning, Deputy Chief Chris Dempsey, Police Chief Michael Curtis, and OCO Deputy Executive Director Kevin Slimmer

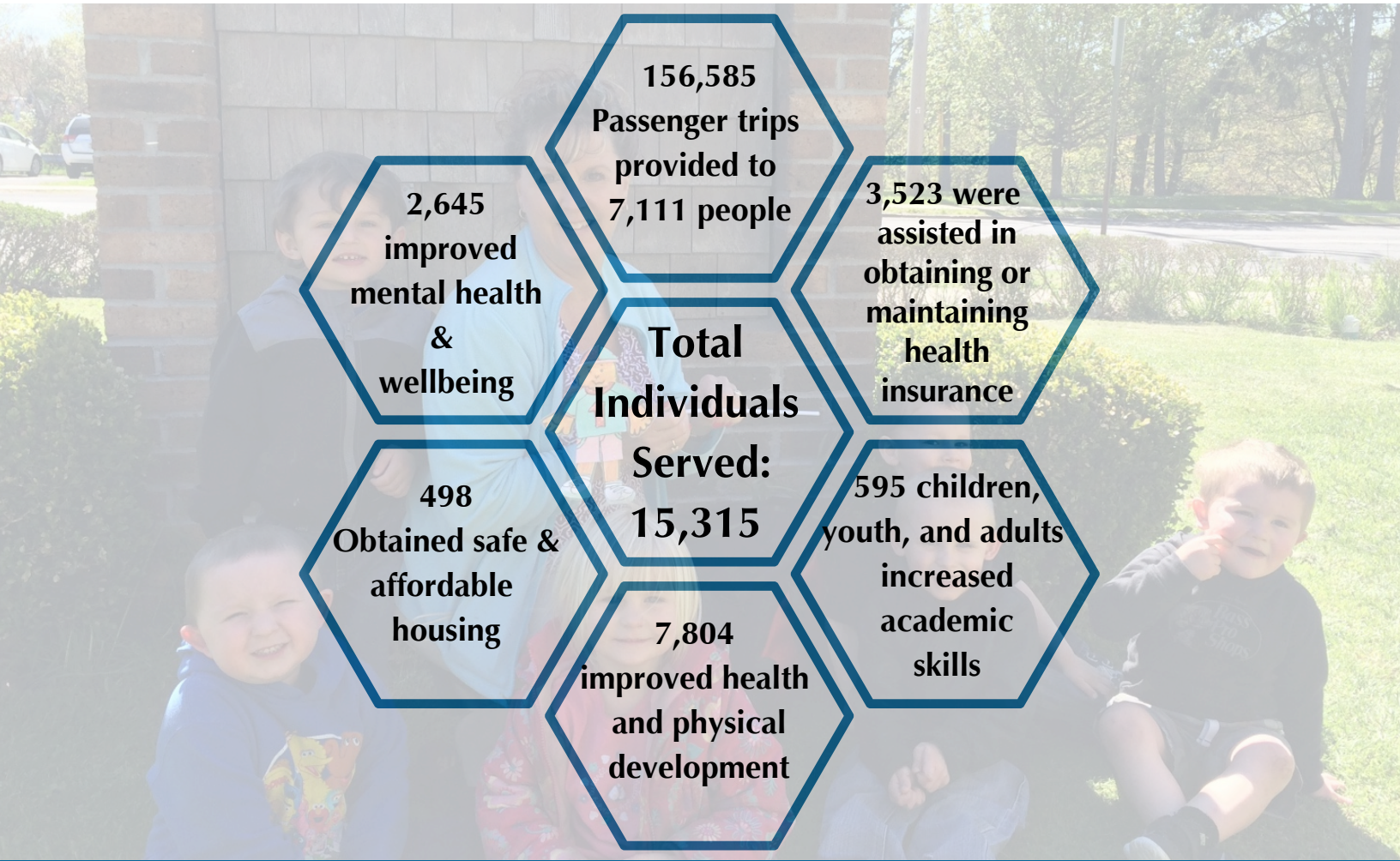
Special Services Manager, Julie Boyd & Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Kristy Salvador present at Head Start Regional Conference



OCO Head Start Shares Their Expertise

OCO's Early Childhood Education program staff presented a workshop at Head Start Region II Conference in St. Thomas VI. Their presentation on Building Relationships with Children and Families provided participants with resources and various approaches to successfully engaging with children and families. They were asked to share many materials that we use here at OCO Head Start and present in neighboring counties.

IMPACTING LIVES



Day of Caring 2024



United Way of Oswego County and Burritt Motors

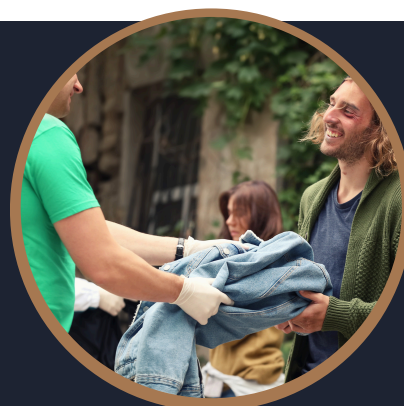


STORIES OF HOPE



Hope and Healing

As Ashley Gardner was doing her daily breast self-exam she noticed a rather prominent lump that seemed to develop quickly. She knew she would need medical assistance but with no health insurance she didn't know where to turn to. "I don't know where I'd be today if not for the help I received from Christina and everyone at the Cancer Services Program," said Gardner. The program really is a life-saver. If not for Christina's knowledge and support I would not have been able to receive the medical treatment I needed. I would have been lost without her. Even now that I am cancer free Christina and the Cancer Services Program is still there for me. They are quick to answer any questions and I have ensured that I will have financial assistance for the ongoing treatments I will be having in 2025." "I encourage women to learn more about OCO's Cancer Services Program of the North Country and discover the knowledge and support its caring and compassionate staff can provide. It was comforting to know my family and I did not have to go through this alone, and the financial assistance they found made it possible for me to receive the medical treatment I needed."



A New Beginning

I don't remember how I got there, just that I was sitting on a bench outside some office building. Lost. Confused. I didn't even know how long I'd been living on the streets. It all blurred together. I felt like a mess. Then, someone from OCO found me. They didn't judge. They just... helped. A warm meal, a hot shower – things I hadn't had in what felt like forever. They even helped me wash my clothes. They talked to me, not at me, and helped me make a plan, a safety plan. I hadn't thought about safety in a long time. They found me a place to stay for the weekend, too. A real bed. Monday came, and they were there again. They helped me access services that allowed me to stay in a hotel for a bit. That's when I finally got some help, a mental health evaluation. It was scary, but it was also the first step toward feeling less lost. From the hotel, I was able to move into a local shelter. It was a place to start. OCO stayed with me through it all. They helped me find a job – I never thought I'd be able to work again. They guided me through finding an apartment. Now... well, now I have my own place. I can actually talk to people without feeling like everyone's staring at me. It's hard to believe, sometimes. It's been a long, hard road since that first day sitting on what I thought was a random bench but turned out to be exactly where I needed to be at that moment. I'm grateful for OCO for giving me a chance to find my way back to myself. I'm living proof that even when you're completely lost, hope is still possible.

Thank you,
Mike

THANK YOU DONORS & SPONSORS



PLATINUM



Alzheimer's Association, CNY Chapter
Amazon
Burritt Motors
Constellation
Dorothy Bonney Estate
Eagle Beverage
G&C Foods
Marion P. Munzer Estate
National Grid
Novelis
Zonta Club of Oswego



GOLD

Anonymous
Joan Rothenberg Family Foundation
Kelly Pisano
Price Chopper, Fulton Store
Oswego County Federal Credit Union
Yvonne Petrella *



SILVER

Amity Pest Control LLC
Anonymous Donors
Barnett Forest Products, LLC
Canale's Restaurant
Clifford Fuel Company, Inc.
Compass Federal Credit Union
Dusting Divas
Elaine Galloway
Fulton Savings Bank
Fulton Sunrise Rotary Club
George Gill *
Kelly Gatslick
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
Laura Woodward
Locavore
OneGroup Bailey & Haskell Insurance
Oswego Health Employee Fund
Patrick Haggerty
PCA Technology Group
Pond Pit BBQ
Richard S. Shineman Foundation
Susan Downey
Texas Roadhouse
Tug Hill Real Estate
Valiant Retire Inc.
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program

BRONZE

Broadwell Hospitality Group
Bryan Coleman *
CNY Community Foundation, Inc.
Cindy Seeber *
D&S Landscaping
Dawn Varney
Diane and Dale Currier *
Fulton Savings Bank
Fulton Thermal Corp.
Haun Welding Supply
J & A Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Jill Lyon *
Katherine Demarest
Kinney Drugs Foundation
Kiyomi
Krista Fox *
La Parrilla On the Water
Lorrie Frawley *
Mimi's Drive Inn
Nancy Linn *



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BRONZE

National Philanthropic Trust
Oompa Loompyas
Oswego Elks Lodge (BPOE)
Oswego Fire Department
Oswego Teachers Employees FCU
Pamela Caraccioli *
Pathfinder Bank
Peter Geitner
Rochester Cornerstone Group, Ltd
Seago's
The Blackburn Giving Fund
Village of Phoenix
Volney Multiplex

SUPPORTER

1st Carriage House Realty, Inc.
Adam Gagas
Alainna Mulvihill
Allanson Glanville Tappan Funeral Homes, Inc.
Alyson Geers
Andrea Vickery
Angela Dwyer
Anna Lombardo
Anonymous Donors
Appledale Orchards
Artistree Workshops & Countrybuzzins
Ashley Maynard
Avis Miller
B&T Sport Shop
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices-
Heritage Realty & CNY Realty
Betty Willis
Bowens Corner United Methodist Church
Brannan Farm Stand
Bridget & Nelson Dolbear *
Bronze Images
Bruce and Ellen Manwaring
Candra McFarland-Gawarecki
Carol Jones
Cathy Collier
Christina Wallace
Christine Courbat
Christine Hirsch
Christine Prevost
Christine Upcraft
Christopher Van Patten
CITI - Culinary Arts
Community Bank, N.A.
Constance Ryan
Cranky Cat Collection
Dawn Varney
Deborah D Chalone
DeVine Designs By Gail
Don Grovine
Donna Campbell
Driveway Inn
First United Methodist Church Quilters



Gidget Stevens
Grace Case
Gurdeep Skolnik
International Wire
Jake Myers
Janice C. Snyder
Janis Cianfarano
Jeanne and Donald Unger
Jesse Lipson
Jessica Hotaling
Ji-Woo's Korean Seoul Food
Joelle Hutson
John and Beth DeRousie
John Walsh
John Zanewych *
Joseph and Irene Caruana
Josh Somers
Juan La Manna
Karen Borek
Karen Ferguson
Katelyn L. Kenner-Carbonaro
Kathy Campbell
Katie Godici
Ken's Body Shop
Kiersten Grabowski
Kim Beaver
Kristy Salvadore
Lakeview Lanes Bowling Center
Laura Parker
Leanna Cleveland
Lee Anne Hoppins
Leila Giancone
Lindsay Warren
Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #743
Lucinda Brown
Maigal Colegrove
Margaret Donnelly
Maria Chatterton
Marjorie Kasbob
Mary Ann Perry
Mary Hicks
Mary Hitchcock
Michael Moss
Michelle Dempsey
Michelle Hughes
Mike Scaries
Mill House Market
Morgan Cromie
N.E.T & Die, Inc.
Nancy Bellow
Nancy L. Quigg
New Haven Volunteer Fire Auxiliary
Oneida Indian Nation Foundation
Oswego Family Dentistry
Pam Kuczawa
Pat Pacitti

Patricia Smith
Patrick and Carol Waite
Patti Williams
Paula Baker
Paulette Yerdon
Penny Foster-Pratt
Press Box
Prince of Peace Church
Pulaski Academy & Central Schools
Raby's ACE Home Center
Raine Dufrane
Regina Tuttle
Riverside Artisans of Oswego
Robert & Betty Buskirk
Robert Ireland
Ron Cahill
Sandra Rude
Scott Van Gorder
Scriba Volunteer Fire Company Inc.
Sean Collins
Strigo Vineyards
Sue & Tom Lerro
Susan Fowler
Susan Henry
Susan McBrearty
Tamarack Golf Club
Tammy Keding
Tara Allen Magner
Tara Bymaster
Tatlim Bakery
Teifke Law Office PLLC
The Cellar Door
The Eis House Lodge
Town of Granby
Trimble Services LLC
Uly's Seafood
Vanessa Bevacqua
Vic and Dawn Runeare



* OCO ALLY (Member of OCO's Giving Society)

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of Anthony
(Buddy) Lombardo
Anna Lombardo

In Memory of Garrett
Dunsmoor
Judy Dunsmoor in care
of the Garrett Dunsmoor
Memorial Foundation

In Memory of Kay Godden
Christine Novak & Carol Brooks
David & Esther Bozak
First United Methodist Church

In Memory of Ted Sivers
Brian and Mary Beth Stacy
Doug & Heather Doerr
Jill Korolenko
Julienne Smith
Larry & Sue Lee
Mike & MJ Gladyszewski
Patrick and Carol Waite
Theresa Francesco
Yvonne Petrella

In Memory of Tim Frawley
Lori Frawley

Tribute to Ted Sivers



In honor of Theodore (Ted)
C. Sivers Sr., a truly
remarkable individual who
dedicated over 50 years of
his life to OCO and the
betterment of our
community. His passing on
August 29, 2024, leaves a
profound sense of loss. Ted's
unwavering commitment
and tireless efforts have left
an indelible mark on
Oswego County, and his
legacy of service will
continue to inspire us all.
We are deeply grateful for
his extraordinary dedication
and the countless lives he
touched.

Become an OCO Ally

07

Make a real impact in your community. Even the smallest gift counts! Learn how you can support OCO's mission through planned giving and join our giving society. Visit www.oco.org/donate to find out more.





2024 AWARDEES

The strength of OCO lies in the collective spirit of our community. Our year was profoundly impacted by the remarkable achievements of our employees, tireless efforts of our volunteers, and the heartfelt generosity of our donors.



**OUTSTANDING LEADERS
OF THE YEAR AWARD
NOMINEES**



Pictured Front Row: Tara Bymaster, Leanna Cleveland, Kathy Corey, Carol Ireland, Mike Scaries
Back row: Joelle Hutson, Kim Clarke, Jes Wakeman, Christina Wallace, Patricia Phelps and BOD President John Zanewych



Eric Bresee

The Howard B. Wilcox Volunteer Award honors the memory of this very special volunteer and is presented annually to people who have shown extraordinary support to OCO. In 2024, Eric Bresee was recognized posthumously for the lasting difference in the lives of so many he touched. Accepting the award on his behalf are his wife, Amy and son Braden.

May we always remember the dedication and impact he made in our community.



**DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR AWARD
NOMINEES**



Pictured Front Row: Ruth Plantz, Bunny Chimber, Amy Bresee (Eric Bresee), Penny Foster-Pratt, Sue Wert, Back Row: Braden Bresee (Eric Bresee), Harold Wert, BOD President John Zanewych
Not pictured- Victoria Finkle

Your time is a powerful gift. At OCO, we believe that volunteering isn't just about giving back; it's about becoming an integral part of a community dedicated to creating lasting change. When you volunteer with OCO, you're not just filling a slot; you're becoming a vital force in our mission to empower individuals and families throughout Oswego County, from helping deliver food or mentoring youth. Whether you have a few hours a week or a few days a month, your time is invaluable. Join us and experience the profound satisfaction of making a real difference in the lives of your neighbors. To explore volunteer opportunities, please visit www.oco.org/volunteer or contact Volunteer Manager, Angela Dwyer at adwyer@oco.org/315-598-4717.

TRANSFORM LIVES, ONE HOUR AT A TIME.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!



Oswego County FCU hosts annual Holiday Dinner for OCO's Residential Programs



GLOW FOR OCO

Night Golf Tournament
August 16, 2024
Tamarack Golf Club, Oswego



OCO Annual Report 2024

EVENTS



Through the generosity of our partners, last year's fundraising events were instrumental in transforming the lives of over 15,000 individuals in Oswego County. Our fundraising events supported the "There's No Place Like A Home" initiative, offering shelter, safety, and hope for individuals and families in need of a home.

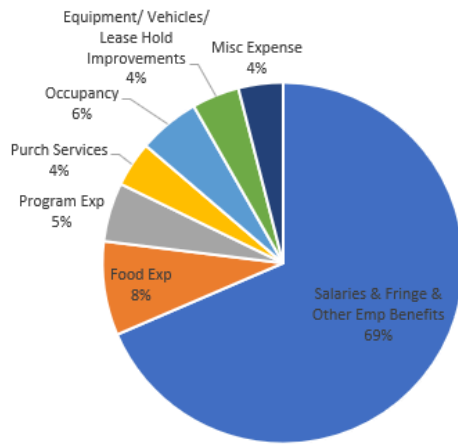
We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our volunteers, employees, donors, and partners, whose contributions make these life-changing services possible.



Giving Thanks

Food & Beverage Pairing Event
November 1, 2024
Lake Ontario Event & Conference Center



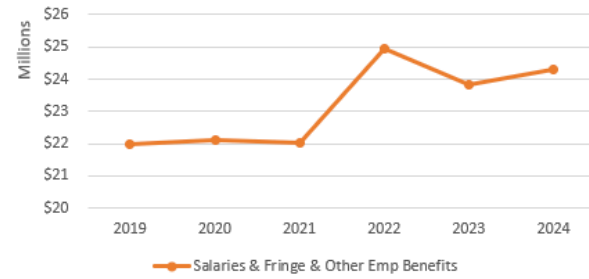


Values shown here exclude Indirect

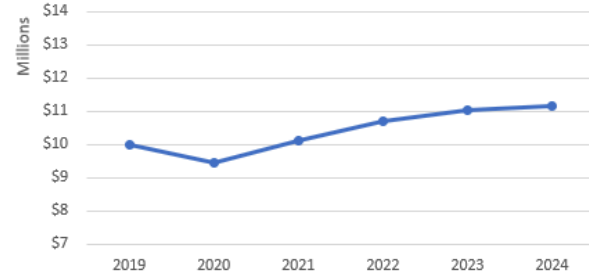
From 2019 to 2024 -
Labor Costs have increased by 11%
Non Labor Costs have increased by 12%

There are no adjustments for volume - these calculations include both inflation and program size changes.

Salaries & Fringe & Other Emp Benefits



Non Labor Expense Summary



OCO Annual Report 2024

FINANCIALS



Financial Statement

	2024*	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Federal ¹	\$ 7,031,339	\$ 11,059,117	\$ 8,630,004	\$ 9,010,145	\$ 10,079,082	\$ 9,174,105
State	\$ 8,483,142	\$ 3,412,398	\$ 1,775,363	\$ 3,405,105	\$ 3,936,561	\$ 602,597
Local	\$ 6,065,768	\$ 4,301,546	\$ 5,610,406	\$ 4,292,352	\$ 4,420,912	\$ 5,450,112
Fee for Service	\$ 13,954,391	\$ 12,476,609	\$ 14,933,166	\$ 12,626,360	\$ 11,460,191	\$ 12,361,463
Food	\$ 2,305,381	\$ 1,696,457	\$ 1,993,144	\$ 1,724,584	\$ 1,577,063	\$ 1,801,569
Donations/Sponsorships/Contributions	\$ 255,106	\$ 211,494	\$ 220,961	\$ 196,936	\$ 282,897	\$ 208,673
In-Kind	\$ 646,112	\$ 387,808	\$ 363,171	\$ 222,289	\$ 655,964	\$ 777,971
Misc Income	\$ 763,356	\$ 4,085,580	\$ 508,559	\$ 1,498,931	\$ 1,108,515	\$ 1,546,192
Total Revenue	\$ 39,504,595	\$ 37,631,009	\$ 34,034,774	\$ 32,976,702	\$ 33,521,185	\$ 31,922,682
Program Services	\$ 35,484,891	\$ 33,645,511	\$ 32,069,357	\$ 28,991,743	\$ 29,489,656	\$ 29,836,137
Support Services (CORP)	\$ 2,927,970	\$ 3,829,980	\$ 3,566,174	\$ 3,144,222	\$ 2,096,519	\$ 2,116,521
Other			\$ 800,245	\$ 958		
Total Expenses	\$ 38,412,861	\$ 37,475,491	\$ 36,435,776	\$ 32,136,923	\$ 31,586,175	\$ 31,952,658
NET ASSETS	\$ 1,091,734	\$ 155,518	\$ (2,401,002)	\$ 839,779	\$ 1,935,010	\$ (29,976)

*2023 - Unaudited Financials (First Close) / 2022-2019 Audited Financials

¹ Federal Line is adjusted during Audit to reflect numbers reported on SEFA - Often these revenues are reported as State Funds

Financial Position

	2024*	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Cash	\$ 1,742,484	\$ 1,631,007	\$ 1,463,280	\$ 3,753,071	\$ 4,919,989	\$ 2,161,555
Investments	\$ 4,403,498	\$ 4,113,749	\$ 3,767,824	\$ 4,198,091	\$ 3,624,200	\$ 3,379,809
Receivables & Prepaid	\$ 7,685,742	\$ 6,693,070	\$ 6,695,691	\$ 5,123,947	\$ 4,911,875	\$ 4,856,089
Total Current Assets	\$ 13,831,724	\$ 12,437,826	\$ 11,926,795	\$ 13,075,109	\$ 13,456,064	\$ 10,397,453
Property & Equipment	\$ 5,499,969	\$ 5,412,765	\$ 5,938,694	\$ 5,256,402	\$ 5,259,518	\$ 5,226,200
Total Assets	\$ 19,331,693	\$ 17,850,591	\$ 17,865,489	\$ 18,331,511	\$ 18,715,582	\$ 15,623,653
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 4,167,006	\$ 3,076,441	\$ 3,244,223	\$ 2,588,455	\$ 2,938,318	\$ 2,592,052
Current Portion Long Term Debt	\$ 196,155	\$ 396,155	\$ 193,531	\$ 190,798	\$ 105,986	\$ 104,373
Self Funded Health Plan	\$ 1,548,716	\$ 930,150	\$ 533,270	\$ 1,454,433	\$ 1,673,286	\$ 1,231
Deferred Revenue	\$ 2,413,247	\$ 1,866,629	\$ 1,837,760	\$ 941,686	\$ 1,519,345	\$ 1,431,670
All Other Current Liabilities		\$ 1,044,693	\$ 1,170,218	\$ 117,162	\$ 911,113	\$ 1,287,814
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 8,325,124	\$ 7,314,068	\$ 6,979,002	\$ 5,292,534	\$ 7,148,048	\$ 5,417,140
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 3,896,478	\$ 3,487,536	\$ 3,921,085	\$ 3,763,573	\$ 3,954,135	\$ 3,705,898
Total Liabilities	\$ 12,221,602	\$ 10,801,604	\$ 10,900,087	\$ 9,056,107	\$ 11,102,183	\$ 9,123,038
NET ASSETS	\$ 7,110,091	\$ 7,048,987	\$ 6,965,402	\$ 9,275,404	\$ 7,613,399	\$ 6,500,615

*2024 - Unaudited Financials (First Close) / 2023-2020 Audited Financials



OCO LEADERSHIP & HISTORY



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: John Zanewych
Vice President: Christine Hirsch
Secretary: John Rastley
Treasurer: Yvonne Petrella
Past President: Connie Cosemento

Members:

Courtney Gould
Craig Fitzpatrick
Deana Masuicca
Dennis Merlino
Doran Edmond
Jennah Lamb
Jennifer Cook
Jennifer Gallagher
Lee Hickey
Martha Sturtz
Nancy Deavers
Shelly Youngs
Sonja Hathaway
Susan Brannan Cole
Tory DeCaire

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Executive Director: Diane Cooper-Currier
Deputy Executive Director: Kevin Slimmer
Director of Human Resources: Cindy Seeber
Director of Finance: Maria Chatterton
Director of Operations: Kristin LaBarge
Fund Development/PR & Marketing: Bridget Dolbear
Executive Administrative Manager: Shelby Fowler



DID YOU KNOW...?



OCO was incorporated as a not-for-profit human services agency on March 15, 1966, as a result of President Lyndon Johnson's Economic Opportunity Program

2024 MARKS 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY ACTION

President Johnson declared an "unconditional war on poverty" in his January 1964 State of the Union address, leading to the August 1964 signing of the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA). This landmark legislation launched numerous social programs to combat poverty through education, health, employment, and welfare initiatives. In 2024, the 60th anniversary of these efforts was marked by state-wide and local commemorations by New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) and New York's Community Action Agencies (CAAs), including Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. (OCO). OCO, established in March 1966 as a direct result of the EOA, continues to pursue the goal of "eliminating the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty."

OCO's Celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of Community Action



SUNY Oswego's WNYO Station holds 24 Hour Radio-thon



Mayor Rice from the City of Fulton awards Proclamation



Pink Lemonade Sip & Paint holds fundraiser

Did you know...



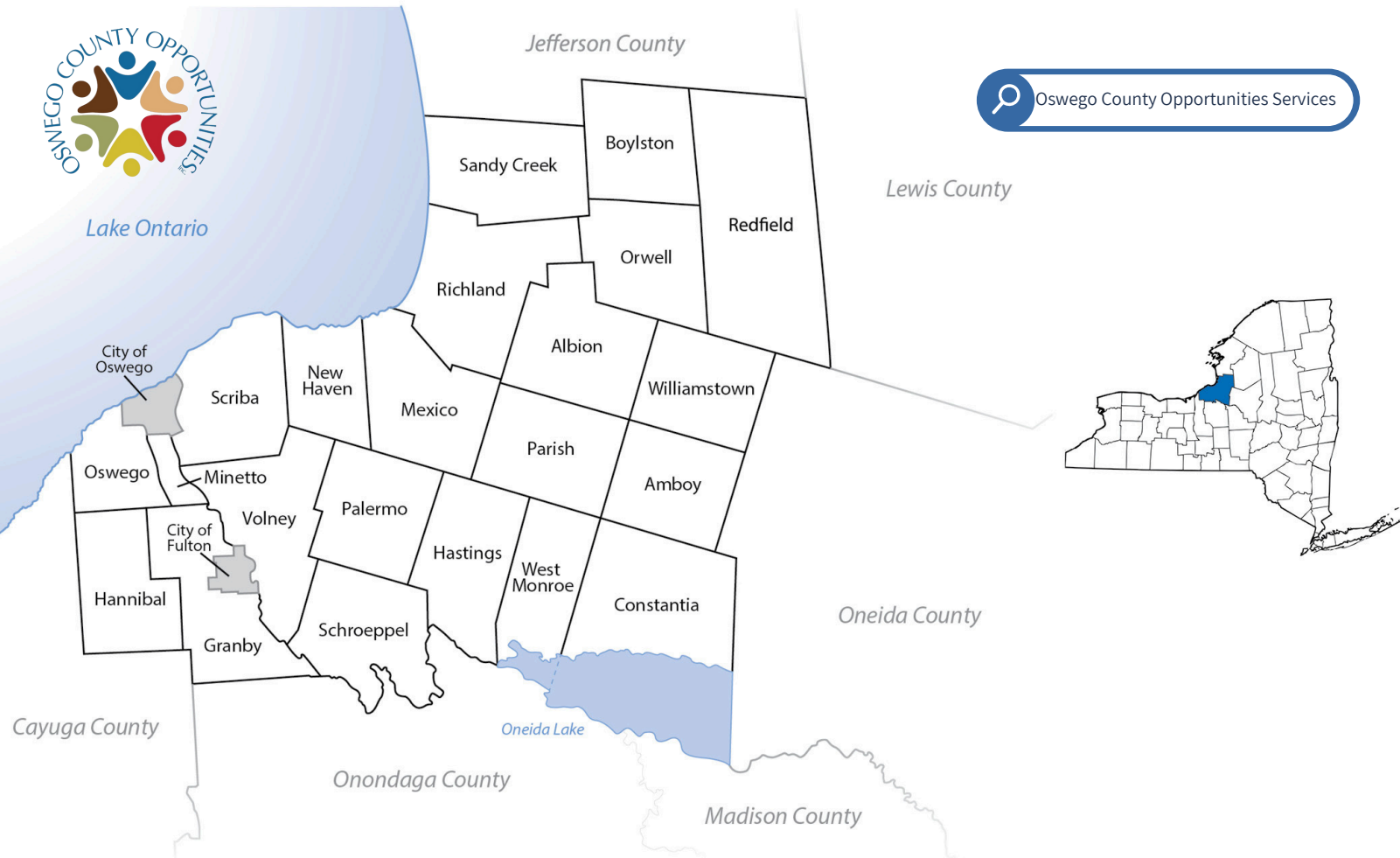
Serving all of Oswego County and some neighboring counties



Lake Ontario



Oswego County Opportunities Services



Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.
239 Oneida Street, Fulton NY 13069
www.oco.org
315-598-4717

2025's Strategic Initiative Thrive in '25: From Hardship to Hope



"Thrive in '25: From Hardship to Hope" is a call to action. We believe that by empowering individuals to become their best selves, we create a thriving community for all. This initiative will support programs that provide critical resources and opportunities in areas such as education, job training, and mental health support.

