



Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



THRIVE IN '25
From Hardship to Hope



MEET OUR LEADERSHIP



KEVIN DEAN
OCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Although my journey with OCO began after the close of 2025, I have been deeply inspired by the progress this organization achieved during such a pivotal year and help Oswego County truly Thrive in '25: From Hardship to Hope. At the heart of OCO's work is a simple truth: progress is not possible when basic needs go unmet. In 2025, OCO placed a strong focus on addressing food insecurity across our county, recognizing that hunger creates barriers to employment, education, and health. When individuals and families are unsure where their next meal will come from, it is nearly impossible to plan for the future.

Through expanded food programs and strengthened partnerships, OCO worked to ensure that no one had to face hunger alone. These efforts provided more than meals—they created stability. Families gained the space to breathe, regroup, and begin moving forward with confidence rather than living in constant reaction to hardship. As I review the accomplishments and stories highlighted in this report, I see a community that refused to remain in survival mode. The successes of 2025 show what is possible when support is delivered with dignity, consistency, and care.

I am honored to lead OCO into its next chapter, building on the strong foundation laid during this remarkable year. Thank you for your continued partnership, generosity, and belief in the power of this work. Together, we are helping our community not just get by—but truly thrive.

Reflecting on 2025, I am deeply moved by how our community embraced the "Thrive in '25" mission. Stepping into the role of Board President this past year, I saw firsthand how we transitioned from hardship to hope, specifically in our fight against the food insecurity crisis in Oswego County. The incredible generosity of our donors has done more than just provide meals; it has offered stability and a path forward for our neighbors when they needed it most.

As we look ahead, that momentum carries us into a truly historic milestone. In 2026, Oswego County Opportunities is proud to celebrate 60 years of service in our community. This diamond anniversary is a testament to six decades of community action and the enduring impact we've made together.

We are not just looking back at our legacy, but building upon it. Thank you for your unwavering support during my first year as President and for being an essential part of the OCO story as we enter this landmark year of service.



JILL LYON
OCO BOARD PRESIDENT

HONORING A LEGACY OF SERVICE



As we celebrate our milestones, we also mark a significant transition in leadership. After years of dedicated service, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our longtime Executive Director, Diane Cooper-Currier. Diane's visionary leadership has been the cornerstone of OCO's growth, steering the agency through decades of challenges with unwavering compassion. Her impact on Oswego County is immeasurable, leaving behind a legacy of hope and a stronger safety net for all our neighbors.



DIANE COOPER-CURRIER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RETIRED (2025)

We are equally excited to welcome Kevin Dean as he takes the reins as our new Executive Director. Kevin steps into this role starting our landmark anniversary year, bringing fresh energy and a deep commitment to our mission. As we transition from Diane's remarkable tenure to a new chapter of leadership, our focus remains steadfast: serving this community with the same dedication that has defined OCO for the past 60 years.

Over forty years ago, I moved to Oswego County for a job; I never imagined it would become my lifelong purpose. OCO has been more than a career—it has been my home, my passion, and my heartbeat.

As I prepare to say goodbye, I am filled with immense gratitude for the dedicated colleagues and volunteers I've worked alongside. While it is difficult to leave an organization so deeply woven into my life, I do so with pride in what we've accomplished together and an enduring belief in our mission to change lives.



THRIVE IN '25: FROM HARDSHIP TO HOPE

MISSION

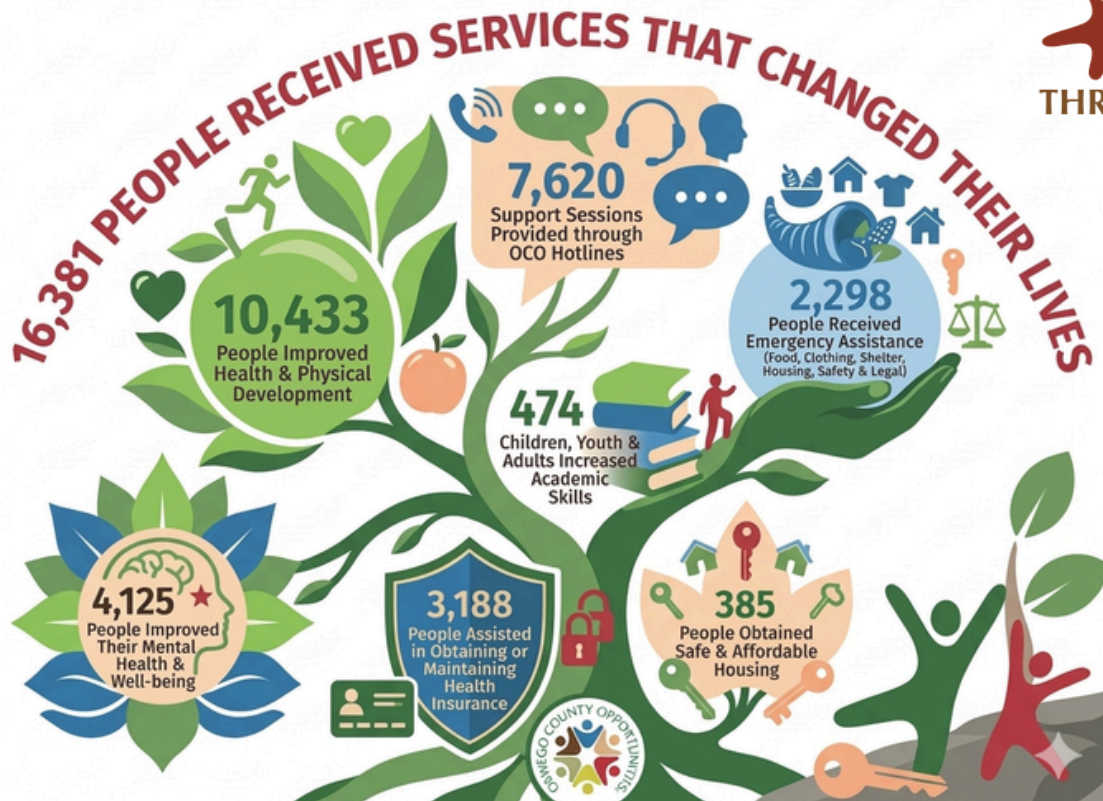
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. (OCO) inspires partnerships and provides services that empower people, support communities and change lives.



VISION

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

LIVES IMPACTED



HELPING PEOPLE. SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES.

OCO is a private, nonprofit human service agency and a cornerstone of support for local residents. As a member of the New York State Community Action Association, we provide a comprehensive safety net through more than 50 specialized programs that offer homeless assistance, educational services, health care, independence for those with disabilities, meal programs for the elderly and youth, safety for the abused, reliable transportation, and chemical dependence, behavioral health and prevention services. We are dedicated to mission-driven support, ensuring that more than 90 cents of every dollar goes directly into the program services that empower individuals and families to thrive.

WHAT'S NEW AT OCO?

GEORGE STREET OFFICE RENOVATION

OCO opened our newly renovated offices at 10 George St. in Oswego, establishing a "one-stop shop" for the community. By housing a wide array of programs under one roof, the facility streamlines access and allows residents to navigate critical resources without traditional barriers.

The site serves as a centralized hub for a massive range of integrated services, including SAF (Services to Aid Families), Care Point, Homeless Services, WIC, Reproductive Health, OPTIONS, Cancer Services, IPAN, and BFFNY. Additionally, the facility provides on-site access to Prevention Services, Community Health, and Health Homes care management, ensuring a seamless path for individuals to improve their quality of life.



CARE POINT

OCO's CarePoint is a welcoming front door for individuals and families seeking support. The CarePoint team connects people with the programs and resources that best fit their needs – breaking down barriers and building pathways to stronger, healthier lives.

For those enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care plans, CarePoint Care Managers provide personalized support to address Health Related Social Needs – including help with housing, food security, and transportation – through a thorough screening and eligibility process that can open the door to ongoing care management and referrals to community resources.



OCO FOOD GIVEAWAYS

In Oswego County, where poverty rates consistently trend higher than the state average, even a temporary disruption in benefits can be catastrophic. The late-2025 federal SNAP funding crisis placed thousands of local households at risk of immediate food insecurity, creating an urgent need for an expanded safety net.

In response, OCO acted as a vital lifeline by hosting rapid-response food giveaways. These efforts provided critical relief to over 540 households, including a major distribution event at the Fulton War Memorial.

These events highlight the power of community action. We remain committed to this fight to ensure our neighbors do not go hungry.

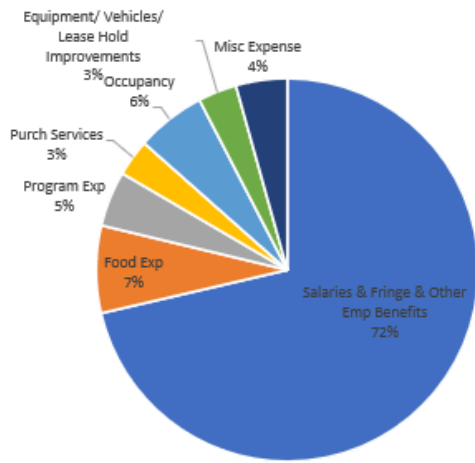


SHE CONNECTS

Supported by a \$5,000 grant from the Central New York Community Foundation, OCO has launched SheConnects, a holistic initiative for women and girls. This program breaks down silos by integrating OCO's Reproductive Health, Nutrition, and SAF services into a single, supportive environment. Through twice-monthly meetings, participants access mutual aid, life skills training, and essential supplies to foster emotional resilience and community connection.



2025 Expense Composition



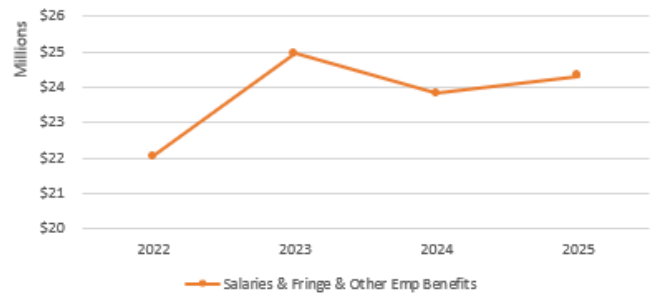
Values shown here exclude indirect

From 2019 to 2025 -

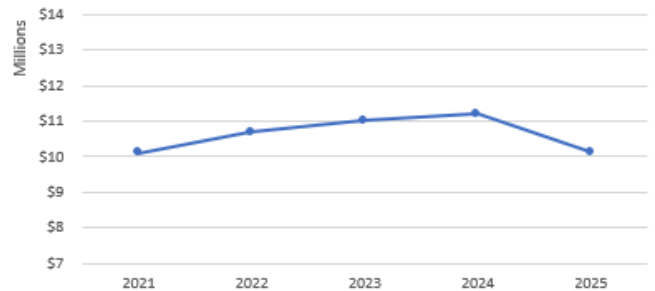
- Labor Costs have increased by 15%
- Food Costs have increased by 13%
- Non Labor Costs have increased by 1%

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

Salaries & Fringe & Other Emp Benefits



Non Labor Expense Summary



FINANCIALS



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025*	2024	2023	2022	2021
Cash	\$ 5,711,937	\$ 3,225,292	\$ 1,631,007	\$ 1,463,280	\$ 3,753,071
Investments	\$ 4,037,765	\$ 4,401,714	\$ 4,113,749	\$ 3,767,824	\$ 4,198,091
Receivables & Prepaid	\$ 7,941,730	\$ 7,685,742	\$ 6,693,076	\$ 6,695,691	\$ 5,123,947
Total Current Assets	\$ 17,691,432	\$ 15,312,748	\$ 12,437,826	\$ 11,926,795	\$ 13,075,109
Property & Equipment	\$ 5,115,007	\$ 5,499,969	\$ 5,412,765	\$ 5,938,694	\$ 5,256,402
Total Assets	\$ 22,806,439	\$ 20,812,717	\$ 17,850,591	\$ 17,865,489	\$ 18,331,511
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 4,480,792	\$ 4,167,006	\$ 3,076,441	\$ 3,244,223	\$ 2,588,455
Current Portion Long Term Debt	\$ 246,884	\$ 196,155	\$ 396,155	\$ 193,531	\$ 190,798
Self Funded Health Plan	\$ 2,364,196	\$ 1,548,716	\$ 930,150	\$ 533,270	\$ 1,454,433
Deferred Revenue	\$ 2,606,280	\$ 2,413,247	\$ 1,866,629	\$ 1,837,760	\$ 941,686
All Other Current Liabilities			\$ 1,044,693	\$ 1,170,218	\$ 117,162
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 9,698,152	\$ 8,325,124	\$ 7,314,068	\$ 6,979,002	\$ 5,292,534
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 4,019,626	\$ 3,896,478	\$ 3,487,536	\$ 3,921,085	\$ 3,763,573
Total Liabilities	\$ 13,717,778	\$ 12,221,602	\$ 10,801,604	\$ 10,900,087	\$ 9,056,107
NET ASSETS	\$ 9,088,661	\$ 8,591,115	\$ 7,048,987	\$ 6,965,402	\$ 9,275,404

*2025 - Unaudited Financials (First Close) / 2024-2019 Audited Financials

Financial Statement

	2025*	2024	2023	2022	2021
Federal¹	\$ 7,072,015	\$ 10,978,718	\$ 11,059,117	\$ 8,630,004	\$ 9,010,145
State	\$ 7,771,709	\$ 8,935,546	\$ 3,412,398	\$ 1,775,363	\$ 3,405,105
Local	\$ 5,913,473	\$ 2,743,600	\$ 4,301,546	\$ 5,610,406	\$ 4,292,352
Fee for Service	\$ 15,416,941	\$ 12,770,084	\$ 12,476,609	\$ 14,933,166	\$ 12,626,360
Food	\$ 1,850,397	\$ 2,305,381	\$ 1,696,457	\$ 1,993,144	\$ 1,724,584
Donations/Sponsorships/Contributions	\$ 199,721	\$ 286,751	\$ 211,494	\$ 220,961	\$ 196,936
In-Kind	\$ 712,975	\$ 646,112	\$ 387,808	\$ 363,171	\$ 222,289
Misc Income	\$ 845,619	\$ 730,225	\$ 4,085,580	\$ 508,559	\$ 1,498,931
Total Revenue	\$ 39,782,850	\$ 39,396,417	\$ 37,631,009	\$ 34,034,774	\$ 32,976,702
Program Services	\$ 35,774,757	\$ 35,064,318	\$ 33,645,511	\$ 32,069,357	\$ 28,991,743
Support Services (CORP)	\$ 3,050,729	\$ 3,444,209	\$ 3,829,980	\$ 3,566,174	\$ 3,144,222
Other				\$ 800,245	\$ 958
Total Expenses	\$ 38,825,486	\$ 38,508,527	\$ 37,475,491	\$ 36,435,776	\$ 32,136,923
NET ASSETS	\$ 957,364	\$ 887,890	\$ 155,518	\$ (2,401,002)	\$ 839,779

*2025 - Unaudited Financials (First Close) / 2024-2019 Audited Financials

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

A look back at our first annual report from 1971, reveals a remarkable journey of expansion. What began as a modest operation with just 4 programs and \$84,000 in revenue has evolved into a vital community pillar, managing more than 50 programs today.

This growth represents a 47,200% increase in revenue and a 59,600% increase in expenses-reflecting our unwavering commitment to meeting the rising needs of Oswego County. These figures are more than just line items; they represent decades of turning hardship into hope through scaled, sustainable community action.

1966 2025



GLOW FOR OCO

Night Golf Tournament
August 15, 2025
Tamarack Golf Club



THE IMPACT OF GIVING

Fundraising is vital to OCO's ability to remain responsive to our community's evolving needs. These initiatives generate essential unrestricted dollars, providing the flexibility to fund urgent requirements and projects that fall outside the scope of traditional funding.

This year, our Thrive in '25: From Hardship to Hope campaign successfully raised critical funds to support essential services like food, shelter, and crisis intervention.

By participating in our events and contributing resources, our partners and donors provide the robust foundation necessary to continue supporting the successes of the people we serve.



Giving Thanks

Food & Beverage Pairing Event
November 14, 2025
Lake Ontario Event & Conference Center



EVENTS



DAY OF CARING

A heartfelt thank you to the United Way of Greater Oswego County and Burritt Motors for their incredible impact during this year's Day of Caring. Rich Burritt led a team of more than 50 volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to beautify the grounds at OCO's newly renovated George Street offices and the Oswego Head Start location, showcasing the true power of community collaboration.



FULTON GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Garden Club volunteered their time enhancing the gardens at OCO's main office. They spent several hours trimming and caring for the garden and introducing new plantings.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Last year, our network of over 1,200 volunteers proved that community is our greatest currency. From delivering nutritious meals to seniors to powering our fundraising events, your dedication changes lives every day.

We invite you to carry this momentum into the coming year. Whether you offer a specific skill or simply a friendly smile, there is a place for you at OCO.

Visit www.oco.org/volunteer.



HOLIDAY DINNER

Oswego County Federal Credit Union hosts an annual holiday meal with games, and gifts for people residing in OCO programs. This event supports individuals who may not otherwise have a holiday celebration.

Thank you!

STORIES OF STRENGTH



A Journey: From Surviving to Thriving

The start of the school year was an overwhelming time for me. I had a sudden loss of a family member while trying to be the rock for my two children. On top of that, I was working, pushing through my college courses, and navigating a high-risk pregnancy with twins.

When my daughter was accepted into the Fulton Head Start program, I didn't realize

I wasn't just finding a school for her—I was finding a lifeline for our entire family. There were moments when the weight felt too heavy. My daughter started struggling with the transition and didn't want to go to school, which added to my stress. But I wasn't alone, we worked together to figure out what she needed, and soon, she was excited to head to class again. They also connected me with referrals and resources, allowing me to focus on the goals I had set for our future.

By the time the new year arrived, our "hardship" had truly turned into "hope." In a single year, I moved my family into a new home, gave birth to healthy twin boys, and walked across the stage to receive my Associate's degree in Accounting. Today, our family of six is stronger than ever. I am currently pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and my family is in a much better place.

Alice's Story: A Christmas Miracle

For a long time, it felt like I was standing in the path of one storm after another. Ever since my hours were cut, I've been fighting a losing battle to stay ahead. Between my own health struggles, caring for my family, and the stress of a shrinking paycheck, I fell behind on rent. When I was laid off entirely, I started working gigs just to keep food on the table, but in our rural community, everything depends on having a car. When my vehicle broke down, the money I had saved for rent had to go toward repairs. Without a car, I had no job—without the rent money, I had no home. It felt like an impossible choice.

Just as I finally secured a new full-time position, the blow I feared most arrived, an eviction notice. I worked as hard as I could to catch up, but the hole was too deep.

That's when I reached out to OCO's CarePoint. For the first time in a long time, someone really listened. They didn't just see a case number, they saw a mom trying to save her family. They connected me to food resources to take that pressure off my shoulders and began the paperwork needed to apply for the rent assistance.

Those final weeks of 2025 were a blur. We submitted the final pieces of the paperwork just as the holiday season started. Two days before Christmas, I got the call and we were approved. The eviction was stopped, and the back rent was paid in full. It was the absolute best Christmas present I could have ever hoped for. For the first time in years, my family and I could rest easy over the holidays. With my new job and a roof over our heads, I finally feel like I'm no longer just surviving. I am ready to thrive.



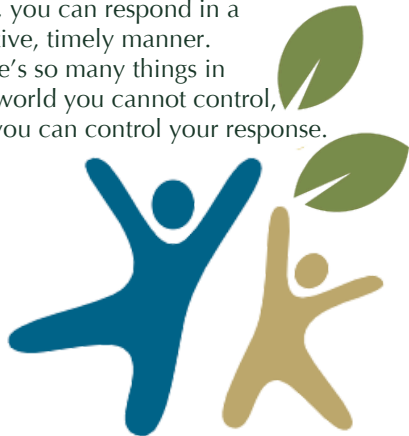
Life is Full of Unknowns: Get Screened

My name is Karen. I live in Northern New York. I'm a semi-retired registered nurse and I'm a survivor of cervical cancer.

I was hesitant to be screened for cervical cancer. In fact, my provider raised the question about the last time I had a pap smear and I really couldn't recall, it had been over seven years.

When I got my screening done and I had abnormal results, they wanted to go forward with the procedure and then I asked about anything to support me because I didn't have health insurance. The New York State Cancer Program allowed me to have the peace about it all being paid for—because you make an excuse when you don't have insurance and you don't want to pay and then, what are you doing? You're putting a price on your health.

Being screened is so important because then, you can respond in a positive, timely manner. There's so many things in this world you cannot control, but you can control your response.



* To protect the privacy of those we serve, names, photos and identifying details may have been changed. Some narratives have been adapted from staff observations to more accurately represent the lived experiences and voices of our program participants.

HONORING OUR SUPPORTERS

The following individuals, businesses, and organizations have provided the vital resources necessary to empower the people we serve. We are honored to recognize their commitment to building a stronger, more resilient Oswego County.

PLATINUM

Amazon
 Burritt Motors
 Constellation Clean Energy Centers
 Food Bank of Central New York
 G&C Foods
 Greater Association of Realtors (GSAR)
 Huhtamaki
 National Grid
 Novelis
 Richard Shineman Foundation
 The Woman's Fund of Central New York
 United Way of Greater Oswego County
 Yvonne Petrella

GOLD

Alzheimer's Association, CNY Chapter
 Anonymous Donors
 Ashley Maynard
 Becky Burch
 Broadwell Hospitality Group
 Dusting Divas
 Eagle Beverage Company
 Emerald Crest Golf Course
 Fulton Savings Bank
 Fulton Sunrise Rotary Club
 George Gill
 Greater Oswego Fulton Chamber of Commerce
 I.O.O.B Chapter 1647
 Jill Lyon
 Joanne & Gary Lagoie
 Kelly Pisano
 Kevin LaGrow
 Lakeview Lanes Bowling Center
 Martha Sturtz
 Maurices
 New York State Grange, INC.
 North American Young Generation in Nuclear
 Oswego County Federal Credit Union
 Oswego Health Employee Fund
 PAC Associates of Oswego Inc.
 Pond Pit BBQ
 Price Chopper Supermarket - Fulton
 Racheal's Warrior Run
 Sara Carmichael
 Sharon D Santoro
 Susan Downey
 Teifke Law Office PLLC
 Texas Roadhouse
 The Bountiful Barn
 Town of Schroepfel
 Troy Baker

SILVER

Anonymous Donors
 B&T Sport Shop
 Barnett Forest Products, LLC
 Betty Wills
 Bowens Corner United Methodist Church
 Bryan Coleman
 Clifford Fuel Company, Inc.
 Debbie Ferris
 First United Church of Fulton
 First United Methodist Church Quilters
 Glider Oil Co. Inc.
 Kevin Slimmer
 Kiyomi Restaurant
 Krista Fox
 Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #743)
 Mexico Trail Riders Snowmobile Club
 Michael Smith
 Michelle Dempsey
 Mimi's Drive Inn
 Nancy R Linn
 OneGroup Bailey & Haskell Insurance
 Oompa Loompyas
 Oswego Elks Lodge (BPOE)
 Oswego Music Hall
 Retired Senior Volunteer Program
 Stout Asset Management, LLC
 Uly's Seafood
 Volney Multiplex

BRONZE

1st Carriage House Realty, Inc.
 Abigail Jackson
 Annette Wallace
 Anonymous Donors
 BAP Oswego
 Brian Frey
 Bridget & Nelson Dolbear
 Brooke Wills
 Canale's Restaurant
 Carmella Zollo
 Cathy's Legacy Group
 Cindy Mears
 Cindy Seeber
 City of Fulton Parks & Recreation
 Compass Federal Credit Union
 Cory Jacobson
 Dawn Leimester
 Diane Cooper-Currier & Dale Currier
 Don Grovine
 Don McArthur
 Douglas Stevens
 Driveway Inn
 Felix Schoeller North America, Inc.
 Fidelity Charitable
 Full Sail Entertainment
 Fulton Lions Club Inc.
 Fulton Thermal Corp.
 Hardcore Fit
 J & A Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
 Jacksonville Faith Community Church
 Janet Lake
 Jeanette Cantu



(CONTINUED)

Jessica Becker
 Jill Briglin
 Ji-Woo's Korean Seoul Food
 Joshua J Gawarecki
 Judy Dolbear
 Kathy Campbell
 Kelly Gatslick
 Ken's Body Shop
 Kim McPherson
 Kinney Drugs Foundation
 Laura Woodward
 Laurie Smith
 Linda Cole
 Mary Ann Perry
 National Philanthropic Trust (NPT)
 Olivia Peel
 Oswego Assoc. of Business and Professional Women
 Oswego Health
 Oswego Quality Carpet
 Oswego Teachers Employees FCU
 Patricia Smith
 Peace Together Project
 Peter Caspari
 Press Box
 Rich & Gardner Construction Company, Inc.
 Robert Taft
 Ruth Oakley
 Sheldon House
 Stephen Harris
 Sun Harvest Realty, Inc.
 Susan Fowler
 Syracuse Crunch Hockey Club
 Tatlim Bakery
 The Eis House Lodge
 Village of Phoenix





SUPPORTER

- Adam Gagas
- Abby Weaver
- Advanced Dental Arts
- Amanda Benedick
- Angela Dwyer
- Ann Schenk
- Anna Lombardo
- Anonymous Donors
- Appledale Orchards
- Becky Carswell
- Beverly Beck
- Billy Brill
- Bonnie Conoran
- Brenda Syrell
- Bronze Images
- Burke's Do It Best Home Center
- Caitlin Doran Prior
- Cali Sweeting
- Carole DePasquale
- Carrie Deloff
- Cherie Sardell
- Christina Wallace
- Christy Parker
- CITI - Culinary Arts
- Connie Cosemento
- Constance Ryan
- Courtney Gould
- Cranky Cat Collection
- CW Creations
- David Manzano
- Davis-Standard, LLC
- Deana and James Masuicca
- Debra Vodek
- Denise Constanza
- Dennis and Mary Catherine Donovan
- Diane Pachoud
- Diane Weaver
- Domonique Cowles

(CONTINUED)

- Donna E Sinclair
- Dorothy Caldwell
- Emma Hanlon
- Empire Attractions Headquarters
- Ethan Weeks
- Fulton Women's Club
- Gary Cole
- Gina Scammell
- Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Green Planet Grocery
- Hair Designs by Kristen
- Heather Carr
- Hiedi Cooper
- Holly Carpenter
- Hylism Studio
- Ingersoll Farms
- International Wire
- James E Crocker
- Janet Irizarri
- Janice Scott
- Janis Cianfarano
- Jennifer Kielb
- Jessica Rehead
- Jo Steele
- Jodi Breese
- John and Beth DeRousie
- John FitzGibbons
- John Zanewych
- Jolene Allen
- Joleyne Besaw
- Justin Bailey
- K-9 Grooming and Pet Motel
- Karen Merrill
- Karen Nellis
- Kathleen DeLisle
- Kathryn Palmer-House
- Kathy Beattie
- Kerry Knowlton
- Kinney Drugs Store - Fulton
- Kristin LaBarge
- Kristine Barbera
- Ladd Tax & Financial Services Inc
- Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Leigh LaShomb
- Liane Benedict
- Lighthouse Lanes
- Linda M Cole
- Lorrie Frawley
- Lou Anne Rucynski Coleman
- LSO: Latino Student Union
- Marilyn and James Seago
- Marilyn Barto
- Marilynn Smiley
- Mary Hitchcock
- Mary Schwing
- Melissa Hoefer
- Michael Moss
- Minetto United Methodist Church
- Nancy Bellow
- NBT Bank Oswego / North Syracuse Branches
- Ontario Orchards
- Oswego Fire Department
- Oswego Players, Inc.
- Oswego Sub Shop
- Patimah McLaughlin
- Patricia Deveau
- Patricia H Ferguson
- Patricia Hermanowski Tousant
- Patrick and Carol Waite
- Paul Kupelian
- Penny Foster-Pratt
- Price Chopper/Market 32
- Pulaski Masons Lodge #415 F. & A.M.
- Renee Clarke
- Rob Goodman
- Robert Chetney
- Rose Clark
- Sandra Farrands
- Sayge Ruffino-Mosher
- Selena Giampa
- Shelby Fowler
- Shelly Youngs
- Shirley Nettles
- Stacey Kelso
- Stephanie Freeman
- Stephanie Meeker
- Student Association
- Sue & Tom Lerro
- Susan Jones
- Tamela S. Hoffman
- Taylor Miner
- Thomas Greco
- Tiffany Bevacqua
- Tina Whorral
- Toby Tremont Clawson
- Tory DeCaire
- Tracy Dann
- Traub Funeral Home, Inc.
- Travis Rice
- Ursa Animal Reiki
- Vanessa Bevacqua
- Victoria Grutzik
- Vincent Jassak

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of
Elo Gardner
Diane Cooper-Currier
Kristin LaBarge
Mary Hitchcock

In Memory of
Jane Davis VanOpdorp
Oswego Players, Inc.

In Memory of
Kay Godden
First United Methodist Church
Quilter's Club

In Memory of
Mary Anthony
Gary Cole

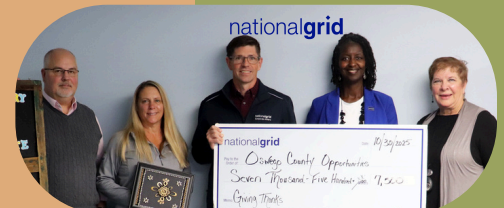
In Memory of
Reverend Jeffrey Knox
Donna E Sinclair
Marilyn Barto
Paul Kupelian
Susan Jones

In Memory of
Tim Frawley
Lorrie Frawley

IN HONOR

In Honor of
The Abare Family
Stephen Harris

In Honor of
Diane Cooper-Currier
Bridget Dolbear
Cindy Seeber
Ellen Lazarek
Kathryn Palmer-House
Kristin LaBarge
Leanna Reynolds
Pamela Caraccioli
Patrick Waite
Tory DeCaire
Yvonne Petrella



2025 AWARDEES

The true strength of OCO lies in the collective spirit of our community. This past year, that spirit powered our 'Thrive in '25' initiative, turning stories of hardship into messages of hope. Our progress was made possible by the remarkable achievements of our employees, the tireless energy of our volunteers, and the heartfelt generosity of our donors.

Donor of the Year Award United Way of Greater Oswego County



Amelia Whelehan Employee Award Shelby Fowler



Howard Wilcox Award Volunteer Award Christina Wallace



The Donor of the Year Award is presented annually to a supporter whose exemplary generosity and partnership have been instrumental in OCO's mission. This award recognizes a donor who goes beyond financial contributions, standing as a true ally in our Thrive in '25 initiative. By investing their resources and heart into our programs, they serve as a vital bridge from hardship to hope, ensuring that the collective spirit of our community remains strong and vibrant.

The Amelia Whelahan Leadership Award is OCO's highest staff honor, established to preserve the legacy of a dedicated pioneer who served as the agency's first Board President. We present this award annually to an employee who transforms hardship into hope by mirroring Amelia's own commitment to the community. It recognizes a leader who provides outstanding contributions to OCO while maintaining the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and active volunteer leadership throughout Oswego County.

The Howard Wilcox Award is presented annually to a volunteer whose dedicated service mirrors the legacy of its namesake. This honor recognizes an individual for their significant length of service and demonstrated initiative in driving positive changes throughout the agency. By choosing to give their time and talent to OCO, the recipient plays a vital role in our mission, helping to bridge the gap between hardship and hope for those we serve.



Outstanding Leaders of the Year Award Nominees

Pictured (L-R): Nominees Allison Griffin and Kristin Naylor; Gary Mashaw (Director of Transportation); nominee Melvin Anthony Jr.; John Zanewych (Past BOD President); and nominees Shelby Fowler, Kristy Salvador, and Wendy Wilson.



Outstanding Volunteers of the Year Award Nominees

Pictured Front Row (L-R): Nominee Patti Williams, Lori Halstead (Nutrition Coordinator), nominee Sandra Barbaro, Meg Henderson (Literacy Volunteers Manager), and Angela Dwyer (Agency Volunteer Manager). Not pictured: Ronald Harrington, The Central Square Bistro Team, Laurie Wood, and Christina Wallace.

OCO LEADERS & LEGACY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jill Lyon
Vice President: Yvonne Petrella
Secretary: Tina Whorrall
Treasurer: Courtney Gould
Past President: Connie Cosemento

Members:

Deana Massuica
Gordan Walts
Caitlin Doran Prior
Lee Hickey
Daniel Farfaglia
Tory DeCaire
Jennifer Gallagher
Justin Bailey
Shelly Youngs
Sidney Carter
Martha Sturtz
Kelly Green
Abby Weaver
Laurie Smith
Susan Brannan Cole
Jeff Weigand

EXECUTIVE TEAM

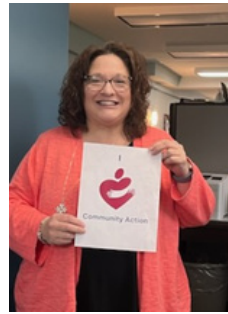
Executive Director: Kevin Dean
Past Executive Director: Diane Cooper-Currier
Deputy Executive Director: Kevin Slimmer
Director of Human Resources: Cindy Seeber
Director of Finance: Maria Chatterton
Director of Operations: Kristin LaBarge
Fund Development/PR & Marketing: Bridget Dolbear
Coordinator of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



A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY ACTION

President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1964 "unconditional war on poverty" and the landmark Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) laid the foundation for a national movement. This legislation launched essential social programs in education, health, and employment, designed to eliminate the paradox of "poverty in the midst of plenty."

Established in March 1966 as a direct result of this act, Oswego County Opportunities (OCO) serves as our region's designated Community Action Agency. We are proud to be part of a nationwide network of over 1,000 CAAs dedicated to empowering individuals and families. Today, OCO remains steadfast in this original mission, working across the county to bridge the gap from hardship to hope and ensuring our community can truly Thrive in '25.



2025 NYCAA "Shine Your Light" Campaign

Each May, NYSCAA's Shine the Light tribute goes beyond general awareness to celebrate the "heart and soul" of Community Action: the staff. This initiative highlights the firsthand stories of creativity and perseverance from those working directly in New York's communities.

OCO is thrilled to announce that OCO's very own Bre Jackowski and Bridget Dolbear have both won coveted 2025 awards for their exceptional dedication. Their stories of compassion illustrate the deep impact of our mission.

Discover their stories at: nyscommunityaction.org/shine-the-light-campaign



Bre Jackowski
OCO Community Engagement Manager



Bridget Dolbear
OCO Fund Development/PR & Marketing Coordinator

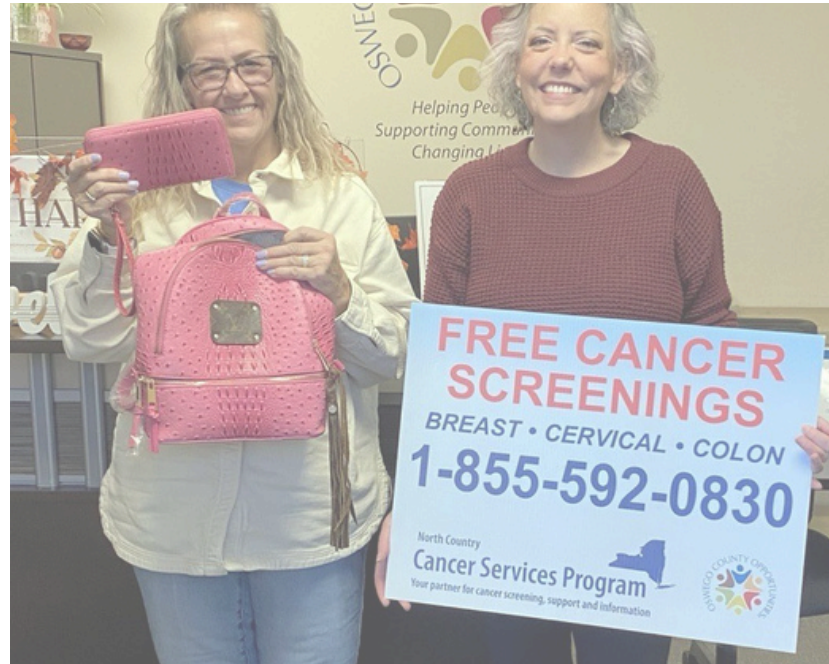


Celebrating Community Action Month



Celebrate 60 Years of Impact in 2026:

In 2026, OCO celebrates 60 years of community partnership. You can ensure this mission never wavers by becoming an OCO Ally. Planned giving is a powerful way to create a permanent legacy that reflects your dedication to Oswego County. By committing to the future today, you guarantee that OCO will be there to support our neighbors for the next 60 years and beyond.



Scan to Make an Impact
www.oco.org/donate

