

ARC OF ONONDAGA FOUNDATION'S  
THIRTIETH ANNUAL  
*Achievement Awards Gala*

ARC OF ONONDAGA

**75**  
*Years!*

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026  
MARRIOTT SYRACUSE DOWNTOWN

PRESENTED BY UPS

# Event Sponsors

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## **Live Auction**

Bonadio & Co., LLP

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Nottingham Trust

# Welcome

Dear friends,

On behalf of Arc of Onondaga and the Arc of Onondaga Foundation, we would like to welcome you to a celebration that is 75 years in the making!

It is inspiring to see so many friendly faces from our community, fellow organizations, legislators, family members, employees, and the people we have the privilege of supporting gathered to celebrate with us. Your attendance tonight illustrates support for our mission, and for our vision.

It's going to be an eventful evening! We are spotlighting some outstanding honorees, we have a wonderful array of silent and live auction items, and we have some exciting musical entertainment.

As we celebrate 75 years of supporting people, we are asking each of you to **dream big and aim high** with us as we head into the future fully committed supporting people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities in leading meaningful lives in their community.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, commitment, advocacy, and support for tonight's celebration!

Sincerely,



**Brian Speller**  
Foundation President



**Ellen Gutmaker**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Brian Speller**



**Ellen Gutmaker**

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# Program

**5:30pm**

*Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres,  
Silent Auction & Butterfly Raffle*

**6:20pm**

*Call for guests to be seated  
Bar will temporarily close during the program*

**6:30pm**

*Program begins  
Welcome by Amy Robbins, Mistress of Ceremonies  
Award Presentation  
Live Auction  
Hosted by Franklin Fry  
Musical entertainment by Team Melodies  
Dinner will begin promptly after the program ends*

**9:00pm**

*Live music provided by the Maria DeSantis Band*

## Times to Note

**Butterfly Raffle Closes | 8:30pm**

**Silent Auction Closes | 8:30pm**

**Silent Auction and Butterfly Raffle Winners May Claim Prizes | 8:45pm**

# Gala Committee

*Thank you to the 2026 Achievement Awards Gala Committee for their vision, suggestions, dedication, and tireless effort to coordinate this year's dinner.*

Wendy Coleman  
Rachel Colella-Squire  
Justin Godbolt  
Christine Hall  
Brian Hurley  
Cathy Janowski  
Joanna Jewett  
Mary Ellen Kaier  
Babette Puzey  
Brian Speller  
Lauryn Washington

# Volunteers

*We would like to thank the contributions of the following individuals who have given so generously of their time to make registration and the auctions go smoothly this evening.*

Rachel Colella-Squire	Gloria Brownlee
Justin Godbolt	Leyvon Wright
Lauryn Washington	Kristal Rigall
Abby Hickox	Jessica Deneen
Mike Herbst	Tom Deneen
Diane Egerbrecht	Lily Herbst
Lindsay Bliss	Renice Williams
Shannon Moore-Carlson	Sandi Whitman
Stephanie Roberston	Paloma Hopson
Faith Wade	Nave Law Firm

# Table Sponsors

*Welcome to our Table Sponsors and guests, who, each year surround Arc of Onondaga and the people we support with a circle of unwavering assistance.*

Barclay-Damon

Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC

Empire Archives

Firley, Moran, Freer & Eassa, CPA, C.P.

Jim & Juli Boeheim Foundation

Mary Ellen Kaier & Tony Tangredi  
*in Memory of Kevin Kaier*

Dr. Frank Smith

Dr. & Mrs. Howard Weinstein

*List as of March 24, 2026*

# Foundation Board

## *Officers*

Brian Speller

**President**

Brian Hurley

**Vice President**

Jennifer Lovell

**Treasurer**

Mary Ellen Kaier

**Secretary**

## *Members*

Juli Boenheim

Sean Broderick

Aida Byrne

Ellen Gutmaker

James Nicoll

Heidi Ouderkirk

Colette Powers

Steve Vasick

# Agency Board

## *Officers*

Chris Mason  
**President**

Melanie Nappa-Carroll  
**First Vice President**

Susan Scharoun  
**Vice President**

James Moran  
**Treasurer**

Christopher Centore  
**Assistant Treasurer**

Daniel Fernandez  
**Secretary**

## *Members*

James Cannon

James Flynn

Young Lee

Alicia Mathis

Chris Paronis

Chuck Seereiter

Carolyn Stark

Susan Tierney



# The Impact of Giving

When you support the Arc of Onondaga Foundation, you help to make a lasting impact upon the people in our community with developmental disabilities who receive services from Arc of Onondaga. The Arc of Onondaga Foundation was established in 2002 to ensure the financial future of the agency by securing community support. Every year, the Foundation awards grants to help fund projects and initiatives that make a lasting and positive impact on the lives of people Arc support. Without funding from the Foundation, these projects and initiatives would not be possible. Since its inception, well over \$1Million of funding opportunities have been awarded by the Arc of Onondaga Foundation.

Grants have enabled Arc of Onondaga to purchase exercise equipment, sit-to-stand lifts, sensory items, and have provided funds for people to take dance classes and enjoy theatrical training and experiences at the Redhouse Arts Center.

Already in 2026, the Foundation has awarded over \$45,000 in grants to programs such as Project Connect, which helps people enjoy recreational experiences, and the Redhouse Arts Center for the spring production of "Pippin" which enables people Arc supports to experience all facets of a live theatrical production. It has also awarded over \$16,000 for emergency preparedness supplies for Arc's residences.

**These are your dollars at work!**



# About Arc

In 1951, a group of concerned parents got together to ensure that their children received the best educational and social services possible. Since then, **Arc of Onondaga** has been providing quality programs for people with developmental disabilities of all ages. Arc of Onondaga, a chapter of NYSARC, Inc. and a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the largest private provider in the county.

Arc of Onondaga is one of the largest providers of services to people with developmental disabilities in Onondaga County serving thousands of individuals and their families and employing 450 people. With 30 different sites throughout Central New York, Arc provides a wide array of opportunities including residential, day, employment, clinical, and recreation programs and services. In addition to these supports, Arc also operates Contract Services, a vocational program with corporate partners throughout the region.

A true community-based organization, Arc thrives on community involvement and inclusion, as well as relying on community membership to build its base of support. Its program participants volunteer hundreds of hours in the community each year in support of a wide variety of organizations and causes.

The **Arc of Onondaga Foundation** was established to ensure the financial future of the agency by securing community support. The Foundation's efforts will guarantee that comprehensive services of the highest quality will always be available for future generations. The Arc of Onondaga Foundation was formed in 2002 and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, duly registered with the United States Internal Revenue Service and the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau.

The Foundation builds community support through individual contributions, planned giving and special events. Support for the Arc of Onondaga Foundation is a powerful statement of involvement, compassion and commitment to people with developmental disabilities. Those who give lead by example and provide the motivation for others to follow; promoting hope for a life of inclusion, independence and productivity for all individuals.

The Arc of Onondaga Foundation is a separate entity from Arc of Onondaga and is led by its own, active board of directors. The Foundation hosts the annual Arc Achievement Awards Dinner and Arc Race in September, as well as other fundraising events and campaigns throughout the year.

# Arc Services

*To accommodate the diverse needs of the individuals we serve and their families, Arc of Onondaga offers a variety of programs, services and supports.*

## **All Ages**

### **Recreation**

Recreation programs provide activities in the community for both adults and teens. The programs are designed to assist individuals in accessing their communities while helping them meet new people and develop friendships.

### **Horizons Clinic**

Our Article 16 Clinic provides therapeutic, clinical services to individuals of all ages, enhancing their quality of life and helping them achieve their fullest potential.

### **Family Reimbursement**

Designed to complement other support and assistance programs, Family Reimbursement provides funds to assist individuals and their families access services and goods.

### **Community Habilitation**

Services designed to assist individuals enhance their skills and maintain an independent lifestyle.

## **Adults**

### **Vocational Supports**

Arc of Onondaga offers a range of vocational options for adults—from prevocational skills training through support for competitive employment. Whether working alongside other employees at various sites throughout the community, or independently at a local business.

### **Day Habilitation**

Day Habilitation supports people who possess a need for higher and more intense training in order to make their community experience, and the experience of the community, more positive. Day Hab provides opportunities to learn new skills and achieve higher levels

of independence. Activities and skill training take place both in the community and on-site, in a variety of locations throughout the county.

### **Residential**

Our residential services strive to ensure that the people receiving services are living in a home – not just a house – and are provided the opportunity to learn the skills necessary for independent living.

## **Children and Teens**

### **Art Surge**

An art program for teens and young adults, Art Surge supports the social, creative, and sensory needs of the individuals it serves by allowing participants an opportunity to understand the creative process from conception to completion. Some of the programs offered include photography, painting/water colors, drawing, fabric design, sculpture, food design, Latin dance, puppet making, yoga and movement.

### **School to Work Transition**

During a student's last year of school, Arc of Onondaga staff work with school officials, parents, the New York State Education Department (VESID), and other agencies to aid a student's smooth transition to employment before and after graduation from school.

### **Monthly Meet-up Drop-in Respite**

This program is geared to give kids and young adults a fun weekend drop-in program to socialize, play games, make new friends and provide the family/caregiver a short break. Activities include programs in Arc's tech space, art studio, training kitchen, gathering lounge and other seasonal fun arts, crafts, classes, games and movies. All suggestions for activities are welcome!.

### **Summer Fun/School Break Program**

Summer Fun is a grant-funded program which allows Arc of Onondaga to pay staff so they can provide one-on-one support for people who would like to fully integrate into existing school break or summer programs and camps such as town recreation activities, YMCA and day camps.

# Ways to Give

*The Arc of Onondaga Foundation was established to ensure the financial future of the agency and its services. Now more than ever, the Foundation needs your support. The future for services and programs and how they are funded remain uncertain. Giving is just one of the many ways we can ensure that the high-quality supports we are able to provide today will remain in place for tomorrow.*

## **Annual Appeal**

Annual Appeal gifts enable our Foundation to award annual grant funding for projects and services for Arc of Onondaga that may be underfunded, or for special projects that may fall outside Arc's annual budget.

## **Planned Gifts**

Well planned gifts through estate planning include wills bequests, charitable gift annuities, and gifts of life insurance. Planned Gifts are a way to make a gift that can provide you with income and/or tax benefits, while enhancing and ensuring Arc's future for many generations to come.

## **Sensory Garden**

The Sensory Garden is an inclusive community green space which not only provides therapeutic value to the people we serve, but tangible environmental and recreational benefits to the city of Syracuse. You can contribute by buying an engraved brick, bench or butterfly which adorn the garden. Other opportunities include purchasing a sense, birdfeeder, plaque for the wall of donors, or special feature. Arc of Onondaga also accepts general donations in support of the gardens' upkeep and maintenance.

# Butterfly Gallery

Give your thoughts and memories wings in the Arc of Onondaga Butterfly Gallery. Your tax-deductible gift will place a butterfly (or other garden friend) on our gallery wall, in honor or in memory of a person of your choice, or with your own name as recognition of your support of Arc of Onondaga.

Your personalized butterfly (or other garden friend) will remain a permanent part of our Butterfly Gallery in appreciation of your belief in the work of Arc of Onondaga on behalf of people with developmental disabilities.

Please contact the Development Office at 315-401-0917 or go to our website at [www.arcon.org](http://www.arcon.org), and click on "Get Involved" for more information.

## *Upcoming Events*

### **32nd Annual Arc Race**

September 12, 2026 – Long Branch Park

### **31st Achievement Awards Dinner**

Friday, March 26, 2027

# Legacy of Love Society

The following individuals are recognized for their leadership in giving to the **Arc of Onondaga Foundation's annual fund drive**. Members of the Legacy of Love Society demonstrate exceptional generosity and help ensure the continued support of individuals with developmental disabilities in our community. Entry into the Legacy of Love Society is made with a donation of at least \$500 to the annual fund campaign. **Membership is maintained by making donations of \$500 or more each year**. Donations are cumulative and each year provide the opportunity to move up to higher giving circles.

## **Diamond Circle: (\$10,000 & up)**

Joyce Carmen  
Barbara Davis  
Gordon & Judy Eyer  
Ellen Gutmaker

## **Ruby Circle: (\$5,000 - \$9,999)**

Joanna Jewett  
James Moran  
Sharon Moran  
Mary & Gary Salibrici

## **Platinum Circle: (\$2,500 - \$4,999)**

David & Donna Loveland  
Jonathan & Donna Miles  
Carol Paronis  
Cheryl Anne Woloszyn

## **Gold Circle - \$1,500 to \$2,499**

Wendy Coleman  
Mary Ellen Kaier  
Susan Tierney

## **Silver Circle: (\$1,000 to \$1,499)**

Paul Anderson  
Carol Ann Fisher  
James & Patricia Flynn  
Steven Ludwig  
Anthony Petrelli

## **Bronze Circle (\$500 to \$999)**

Dorothy Davis  
Thomas Greenwood  
Kyle Lyskawa  
Yahaira Rentas

# Past Honorees

## Person of the Year Award

2025 Anthony Petrelli  
2024 Ron Palmatier  
2023 Alicia Mathis  
2022 Lisa Winter  
2019 Paul Fisselbrand  
2018 Cleo Hamilton  
2017 Dori Zografos  
2016 Stephen Richardson  
2015 Amy & Scott Hays  
2014 Chris Paronis  
2013 Paul DeForge  
2012 Lance Gonzalez  
2011 Mary Beth Cusano  
2010 Emmanuel Jones  
2009 Melissa Bodnar  
2008 Jesse & Jaden Barnett  
2007 Richard "Little Joe" Enriquez  
2006 Kevin Cobb  
2005 Scott Laffan  
2004 Lisa LoVuolo  
2003 Ella Whaley  
2002 David Rogers  
2001 Robert Adsitt  
2000 Robert Acierno  
1999 Jay Gelormini  
1998 Joe Belge

## Mary Carol & Robert J. Fisher Founders Award

2025 James Cannon  
2024 Chuck & Michael Seereiter  
2023 Brian Speller  
2022 Dr. Susan Scharoun  
2019 Christopher Centore  
2018 Arc Guardianship Committee  
2017 Mike Ferony  
2016 Mark Reid  
2015 Dr. Art Vercillo  
2014 Mark Hettler  
2013 Janet & Jack Mallan  
2012 Mary M. Salibrici  
2011 Kris Tucci  
2010 Alfred Cappuccilli  
2009 Marion "Peggie" Honeywell Keib  
2007 Maureen Dabrowski  
2006 Sean Broderick  
2005 Gordon & Judy Eyer  
2004 Joyce Carmen & Peter Carmen  
2003 Sharon Sullivan  
2002 The Moran Family  
2001 Jeanne & Don Chatfield

## President's Award

2022 Senator John Mannion  
2016 Syracuse City School District  
2011 Shirley & Tyrone Goddard  
2006 Lori Kennedy  
2003 Hal Brown, Jr.  
2001 Americar Rental System

## Robert D. McAuliffe Award

2025 174th Attack Wing  
2024 Sodexo at Menorah Park  
2023 All Night Eggplant  
2022 TCGplayer  
2019 Walgreens  
2018 Image Integrator  
2017 SU Food Services  
2016 Rite Aid  
2015 National Grid  
2014 BNY Mellon  
2013 OCRRA  
2012 The NYS Fair  
2011 Upstate Medical Univ.  
2010 Nixon Gear  
2009 Wegmans  
2007 Time Warner Cable  
2006 Syracuse VA Medical Center  
2005 Empire State Container  
2004 New Venture Gear  
2003 The Olive Garden  
2002 Kilian Manufacturing  
2001 General Super Plating  
2000 Flex Hose Co.  
1999 Craftsman Inn  
1998 Niagara Mohawk  
1997 James M. Snyder  
1996 Dr. Alfred E. Falcone  
1995 Robert D. McAuliffe

## Arc Achievement Award

2025 Young and Jay Lee  
2024 NYSID  
2023 Amy Robbins  
2022 Syracuse Hancock Airport  
2019 Lindsay Webb  
2018 Dennis Vanderheiden  
2017 RedHouse Arts Center  
2016 Sean Kirst  
2015 Lena Kochian  
2014 Doug Logan  
2013 Bob Walsh  
2012 Syracuse Stage  
2011 Susan Crossett  
2010 Paul Anderson  
2009 James T. Walsh  
2007 Bill Edwards  
2006 Tex Simone  
2005 Peter Cappuccilli, Jr.  
2004 Dr. Gregory Eastwood  
2003 Joel Delmonico  
2002 Juli Boenheim  
2001 Roosevelt Bouie  
2000 Roland Williams  
1999 Kim Peek  
1998 Chris Burke

## Milestone Award

2011 Marc Brandt

# In-kind Contributors

*The success of tonight's auctions and raffle is due entirely to the generosity of the following businesses, restaurants, stores and artists from in and around our Central New York community. Please join us in the days to come and express your appreciation of their support of Arc of Onondaga by stopping by to say, "Thank You." When we support, shop and buy local, our entire community thrives!*

## 1st National Gifts

A. W. Wander

Abbiocco by a mano

Adirondack

Experience

Arc of Onondaga

Arc Ontario North

Star Café

Avicolli's Pizzeria &  
Kitchen

Azteca Mexican Grill

Babette Puzey

BeeKind Syracuse

Biscotti Cafe & Pastry  
Shop

Boom Babies

Branch's Driving  
School, Inc.

Brian Speller

B'ville Diner

Camillus Golf Club

Carol Watson

Cumulus Media

Greenhouse

Cazenovia Jewelry

Central Rock Gym

Syracuse

Charter

Communications

Chick-fil-A Cicero

China Towne

Chocolate Pizza

CNY Central

CNY Golf Shop &  
Range

COHO Pizza and  
Wine Bar

Coleman's Authentic  
Irish Pub

Colonial Belle

Corning Museum of  
Glass

Craftsman Wood Grille  
& Tap House

Crazy Daisies

Dark Horse Tavern

Dome Tickets at SU

DoubleTree Hotel  
Syracuse

Ellen Gutmaker

Embassy Suites

Syracuse at Destiny

Enchanted Forest

Water Safari

Fenimore Art Museum

Freedom of Espresso

Friends of Arc of  
Onondaga

Gannon's Ice Cream

George Eastman  
Museum

Glimmerglass Festival

Green Hills Farms

Guitar Center

Syracuse

Hampton Inn & Suites  
Saratoga

Harry's Bar

Home Team Pub

Hotel Canandaigua

IHeart Media

Iaisha Hinton

Jet Black New York

Joanna Jewett

Ken's Auto Detailing  
King David's  
Lakehouse Pub  
Ma & Pa's Kettlecorn  
& Popcorn Factory  
MacKenzie-Childs  
Manlius Jewelry &  
Repair  
Mary Ellen Kaier  
Mazzye's Meats  
Meier's Creek  
Brewing Company  
Mike Lindsley – ML  
Sports Platter  
National Baseball Hall  
of Fame & Museum  
New York Giants  
NewsChannel 9  
Nichols Liverpool  
NY Zipline  
Oh My Darling  
OneGroup  
Onondaga County  
Parks  
Pastabilities  
Peter's Discount  
Liquors  
Phoebe's Restaurant  
& Coffee Lounge  
Photography by  
Rachel  
ProntoFresh  
Rachel Colella-Squire

Raymour & Flanigan  
Redhouse Arts Center  
Riley's  
Rosamond Gifford  
Zoo  
Saltine Warrior  
Sam Rao Florist  
Seabreeze  
Amusement Park  
Skaneateles Fields  
Resort & Spa  
Spark Branded  
Solutions  
Speech Family Candy  
Shoppe  
Spera's Old Fashioned  
Meat Market  
Stasis Float Center  
Stella's Diner West  
Stingers Pizza Pub  
Sweet Dream Candy  
Shoppe  
Syracuse Crunch  
Syracuse Mets  
Syracuse Panhellenic  
Syracuse Salt Co.  
Tassone's Wine  
Garden  
Thanos Import  
Market  
The Hangar Theatre  
Company  
The MOST

The Pompey Club  
The REV Theatre Co.  
The Strong Museum  
of Play  
The Syracuse  
Orchestra  
The Wild Center  
Tops Friendly Markets  
Toss & Fire  
Wood-Fired Pizza  
Tracey Dubuc  
Tully's Good Times  
Twin Trees 57  
Uncle Sam Boat Tours  
UPS  
USA Racing  
Utica Zoo  
Vicanos Brick & Brew  
Vince's Gourmet  
Imports  
Vinomania  
Welch & Co. Jewelers  
WonderWorks  
Destiny

*List as of March 25, 2026  
subject to change*

# President's Award



The President's Award honors someone who has gone above and beyond in helping Arc fulfill its mission, and this year the award is being presented to Ellen Gutmaker.

Ellen has spent the past 45 years supporting, advocating, leading, and believing in people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. She has worked tirelessly to get to know every facet of the organization. She knows the people and their families. She is the "go-to" person on matters large and small. She

is a true advocate and champion for the I-DD community.

While she currently serves as CEO, Ellen draws upon her days of providing direct support to inform her decisions, motivate our staff, and guide our chapter as we navigate the future. The respect she pays to Arc's Direct Support Professionals clearly comes from having walked in their shoes, always striving to empower people to live meaningful lives in their community.

Ellen Gutmaker began her career in 1981, working part-time with children in Community Habilitation. She then worked as a night aid in a residential program. At that time, the Arc Ontario did not offer nursing services. With the safety and well-being of the people in her care as motivation, Ellen became the first med-certified employee at the Ontario chapter. In 1985, she opened supervised apartments as the Residential Director. She also developed and opened both the day treatment and day habilitation programs at the Ontario chapter

Ellen joined the Arc of Onondaga staff in 1999. She was hired to be the Director of Quality Assurance, however, at that time one of the chapter's programs, located in the Eastwood section of Syracuse, was decertified. For the next year, Ellen worked to recertify the program. After her efforts were successful, she took the reigns as QA Director. In 2002, under Ellen's direction, the chapter's Corporate Compliance Plan was adopted, and for the next 11 years, Ellen led the QA/Compliance team.

In 2013, Ellen became Executive Director of Arc of Onondaga. Since then, the agency has seen many changes and challenges. She led the Arc team as we closed sheltered workshops, opened day hab without walls programs, and facilitated partnerships that expand opportunities for the people we support, always striving for true community inclusion. During the days of Covid, Ellen was constantly on-site, steering the ship through uncharted waters with a laser-focus on both the people we are privileged to support and staff, all of whom were affected.

With a keen eye on improvements to our field, Ellen lends her time and talents to many organizations. She is a member of the Arc NY Joint Committee on Quality and Compliance and the Fiscal Sustainability Review Committee. In our local community, Ellen serves on the Board of Directors of Redhouse and has been instrumental in our partnership with them.

In late 2025, Ellen decided that 2026 would be her last year in her role. As one colleague shared: "There is no one who knows more about Arc of Onondaga or is as committed to the people we support than Ellen."

The legacy that Ellen Gutmaker has built in her 45-year career will continue to make an impact on Arc of Onondaga long after her retirement later this year. As the agency transitions, one thing is sure, the phrase *What Would Ellen Do* will be a source of inspiration, calm, and clear thinking for many years to come.

# Person of the Year

## Joseph Vaccarro



The Person of the Year Award recognizes someone with an intellectual or developmental disability who has demonstrated significant progress towards living an independent and inclusive life to their fullest potential, and on this milestone year, we're excited honor Joseph Vaccarro! Joe has been involved with Arc of Onondaga since 2006, and has always had two important personal and professional goals; to be able to live independently in the community, and to obtain employment in a competitive workforce.

Joe started his journey living in a community residence and transitioned to independent living in an apartment setting where he was faced with many difficulties including time management and managing his diabetes and medication needs. He needed a lot of verbal support and reminders, as well as some extra help and education to make proper lifestyle and health choices. With the many moving pieces required to live independently, the choice was made for Joe to return to a group setting and he moved into Arc's Wilmore Avenue residence. Joe spent the last three years working hard for himself and with staff to be able to live independently, and this past June, was able to move back into an apartment setting at Arc's Pleasant Road apartments, where he currently lives independently with minimal supports.

Joe also achieved another milestone in the past year. Working independently! Joe recently was hired for his "dream job" at Hobby Lobby in Fayetteville and is thriving. Joe has participated in many of the Arc employment programs throughout the years including at the Lowell Avenue Woodshop and National Grid work sites, in our Enclaves, Pathways, Employment Options and Pre-Voc programs, and with our Mobile Work Crew. Through the years, with the support of Arc, Joe has developed the work and time management skills he needed to reach his goals. He has attained his employment and independent living dreams, and we proud of all his has accomplished!

# Mary Carol & Robert J. Fisher Founders Award

## Brian Hurley



The Mary Carol and Robert J. Fisher Founders Award recognizes an individual who has made long-term and significant contributions to Arc of Onondaga. This year, we are proud to recognize Brian Hurley.

Brian has served as a board member for Arc of Onondaga Foundation for over 10 years. He currently serves as Vice President and is a member of the Investments Committee.

Brian and the team at OneGroup work with nearly 25 Arc chapters and The Arc New York. Brian is a true friend to our agency giving his time and generosity. He never misses a fundraising event! If you know Brian, you're probably surprised to see him without a golf club in his hands.

Brian and his colleagues at OneGroup host the Team Melodies – Arc's singing group – every holiday season, which is, as Brian says "the best day of the year."

During a recent interview on News Channel 9's "Bridge Street," Brian shared that when he and his wife Laurie were expecting their first child, tests indicated that their child would be born with Down syndrome. Brian and Laurie learned all they could to best prepare themselves. What they learned lit a fire in them to support organizations and efforts that provide supports to people with developmental disabilities, and that flame remains and fuels Brian's attitude and actions.

# Arc Achievement Award

**Fr. Fred Daley**



For 11 of years, Arc of Onondaga has partnered with Father Fred Daley, pastor of All Saints Church on Lancaster Avenue in the University area of Syracuse. Lancaster is one of our Day Habilitation sites, where people meet every day Monday through Saturday before heading out into the community to experience all it has to offer. In addition to program space, Father Fred lets the agency use "Lancaster" - as we call it - for special events such as the Halloween and Ugly Sweater holiday parties, both of which are very popular with the people Arc supports.

In 2024, when a beloved member of the Arc staff passed away suddenly, Father Fred hosted her memorial service in the church and generously donated the space to hold a reception for friends and family.

Father Fred and All Saints Church are the embodiment of inclusion and community activism. ALL people are welcomed and for this and the partnership we enjoy, we are proud to honor Father Fred Daley.

# Robert D. McAuliffe Community Service Award

## Price Chopper



The Robert D. McAuliffe Community Service Award recognizes a business dedicated to diversity in the workforce, and to helping people with developmental disabilities realize their employment dreams.

The local business community plays an important role in creating opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to achieve their fullest potential, and this year, we are thrilled to recognize Price Chopper.

Price Chopper has been working with Arc of Onondaga since 2005, providing opportunities for training and paid employment. Currently, five people who receive support from Arc work at Price Chopper. Throughout the years, people supported by Arc have been treated as employees – respected, appreciated, and included.

# Live Auction

**Auctioneer:** Franklin Fry, Executive Director, Redhouse Arts Center

The Live Auction event is part of the evening's dinner program and will take place after the award presentations. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to bid. To bid, simply hold up the card you received at registration, or use your hand. If you are the winning bidder, a volunteer will come to you.

The Arc of Onondaga Foundation will take cash, personal checks, and major credit cards.

## **Live Auction Rules**

- The Live Auction will take place following the awards presentations.
- Your bid is a binding contract.
- A volunteer will come to you with additional information on how to pay if you are the winning bidder.
- All items must be paid for and claimed this evening.
- Payment is accepted by cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express
- To claim your package, fill out the form that will be brought to you and stop by prize pick-up in the cocktail area before you leave for the evening. You can pay for and receive your auction winnings at prize pick-up.
- If you have any questions, please see an Arc staff member or volunteer.

## Tennessee Whiskey Tour



Experience Includes:

Choice of one Tennessee Whiskey Tour listed below:

- Nashville Barrel Company Tasting & Tour
- Straight from the Barrel Experience for two
- Nashville to Nearest Green Distillery Tour and Tasting for two

3-Night Stay at the Hutton Hotel for two

\$500 Visa Gift Card

Donors: A friend of Arc of Onondaga and TOPS Markets

# The Heart of Rock & Roll



Experience Includes:

A 3-night stay for two at the Hyatt Regency Cleveland  
at the Arcade

Two Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Admissions

\$500 Visa gift card

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# **RAISE-A-PADDLE**

## **Redhouse Arts Center Partnership**

We see the impact that inclusive arts make on the people we support. With your support, we will be able to continue our partnership with the Redhouse Arts Center in the future!

Minimum donation: \$50



## Yankee Fandamonium



### Experience Includes:

Four tickets to see the Yankees take on the Boston Red Sox on August 29th at Yankee Stadium (section 111, row 25, seats 11-14)

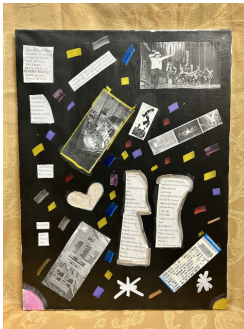
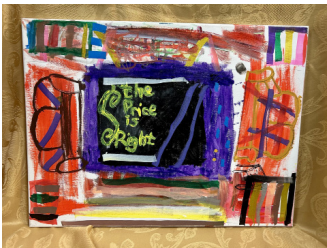
A bat autographed by: Bobby Richardson, Yogi Berra, Bernie Williams, Cecil Fielder, Goose Gossage, Dave Winfield, Mariano Rivera, Graig Nettles, Tommy John, Roy White, Willie Randolph, Joe Girardi, Bucky Dent, Whitey Ford, Aaron Boone, Wade Boggs, Doc Gooden, Chris Chambliss, Ron Bloomberg, Jim Leyritz, Darryl Strawberry, Ron Guidry, Lou Pinella, Reggie Jackson, Coach Joe Torre, and long-time scout Cesar Presbott

Donors: Mike Lindsley and Jeremy Brown

# Live Art Auction

Back by popular demand, we are featuring artwork created by people who receive support from Arc of Onondaga in a live auction!

Arts Coordinator, Erica Danega, has spent many hours in our programs, empowering people to channel their creative talents into works of art. Tonight, you have the opportunity to show your appreciation for their artistic abilities and possibly own a piece of art that was created especially for tonight's event.





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# CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2026 Person of the Year

**Joseph Vaccaro**

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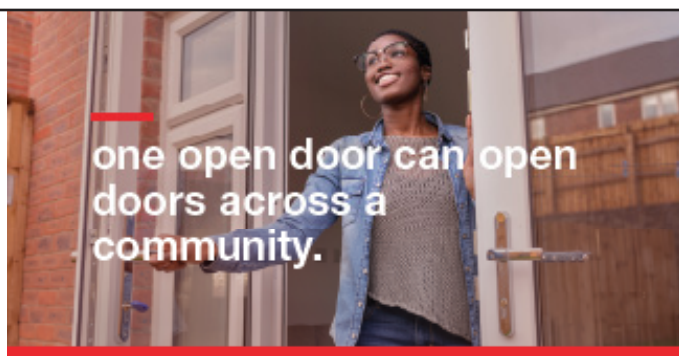


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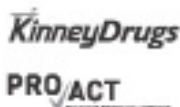
Thank you, ARC of Onondaga, for making a difference.

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The Kinney Drugs  
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*HR Works extends our warmest congratulations to all of this year's award recipients and to the Arc of Onondaga on its 75th anniversary. We are proud to support this year's awards ceremony and celebrate the outstanding individuals and organizations making a lasting impact in our community.*

**Adam Dusseault**  
Vice President, Business Development  
(315) 299-6982 [Dusseault@hrworks-inc.com](mailto:Dusseault@hrworks-inc.com)  
[www.hrworks-inc.com](http://www.hrworks-inc.com)

# OneGroup is Proud to Support the Arc of Onondaga's 30<sup>th</sup> Achievement Awards Gala

*Congratulations to Brian Hurley and the honorees  
for their dedication to creating meaningful  
opportunities for people with intellectual,  
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*Congratulations to  
The Arc of Onondaga Foundation  
and to the individuals and  
community leaders  
whose dedication continues to  
inspire us all.*



# Connecting and Empowering Our Community

We are proud to support the Arc of Onondaga in the mission of empowering individuals through opportunity, inclusion, and meaningful community connections.



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Congratulations to this year's award recipients!



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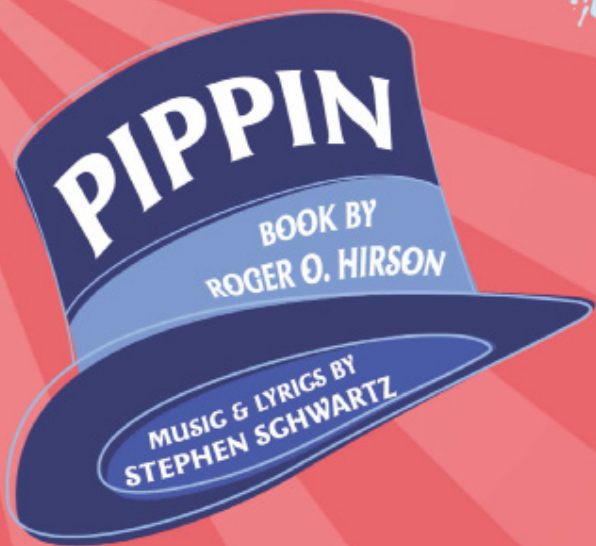
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Michael Miller  
John Sterling  
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Ed Anzick

Dean Bayler  
Jason Maciatek

Congratulations  
to  
all of Arc's 2026  
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Honorees,  
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Thousands of New Yorkers with developmental disabilities rely on DSPs every day for help with life's essential activities. These can include getting out of bed and cooking meals, or finding a job and going shopping. The role of a DSP is just as diverse as the individual it serves to support. Every day and person is different, unique and rewarding!



Contact Victoria at

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[victoria.cannon@arcon.org](mailto:victoria.cannon@arcon.org)

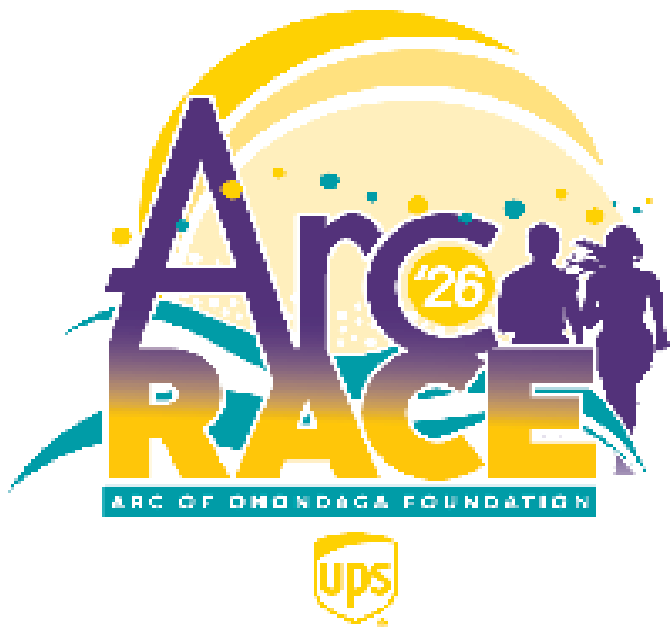


## ABOUT ARC

*Arc of Onondaga is one of the largest providers of services to people with developmental disabilities in Onondaga County serving over 1,000 people and their families, and employing almost 500 people.*

*With nearly 40 different sites throughout Central New York, Arc provides a wide array of opportunities including residential, day, and recreation programs and services.*

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