

The Broadway Bulletin

A monthly publication of Opportunities for Otsego

The leader in developing innovative solutions that promote healthy lives, thriving families, & caring communities

May 2026
Volume 18, Issue 5

Community Action Month is Here

Spring is just around the corner, which means it's time for Community Action Month. This is our moment to shine, and an opportunity to raise awareness, celebrate our impact, and highlight the important work we do every day to help individuals and families across Otsego County.

Over the past year, our team has shown resilience, creativity, and commitment in the face of ongoing challenges. **Every department, every program, and every staff member plays a role in helping our neighbors succeed, and that's something worth celebrating.** Community Action Month gives us the chance to share those successes and tell the story of the difference we make right here in our community.

We encourage all staff to get involved. Whether it's sharing a success story, talking about your program with partners, or engaging on social media, your voice helps amplify our mission **"to be the leader in developing innovative solutions that promote healthy lives, thriving families, and caring communities"**.

To build momentum and bring together the 1,000+ Community Action Agencies across the nation, the National Community Action Partnership has coordinated activities throughout the month to encourage shared experience for engagement and visibility. Some ways you can plug in and participate:

May 5th - National Teacher Day: Give thanks to all our hardworking and dedicated teachers serving the wonderful children enrolled in our programs.

May 13th - Weatherization Wednesday: Celebrating 50 years of Weatherization

May 14th - Huggy Heart Day: Print the Huggy Heart coloring page from this newsletter and get creative. This is an activity that kids in our Head Start centers, home visiting programs, WIC, shelters, and adult kids are sure to love!

May 18th - Head Start's Birthday: How has Head Start touched the lives of children and families in our community? Let's share our Head Start success stories and celebrate our Head Start families and staff.

May 29th - "I Love Community Action" Selfie Day: Bust out your Community Action swag and celebrate the last #FunFriday of the month by posting your beautiful face to social media with an "I Love Community Action" selfie sign!

Let's come together to make this Community Action Month meaningful, visible, and a true celebration of the work we do every day.

Submitted by *Megan Martin, Planning & Research Director*

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Head Start Eligibility

Housing costs are now considered in determining income eligibility for Head Start. **Families paying more than 30% of their annual gross income on housing-related expenses may be deemed income eligible after an "excessive housing adjustment"**. The excessive housing adjustment considers monthly payments; taxes; utilities; insurance; and interest. This change opens opportunities for families who were otherwise excluded based on household income.

To qualify for Head Start, families must be pregnant or have a child under five years of age and meet one of the following eligibility criteria:

- Household annual gross income up to 130% of Federal Poverty Level after any adjustments
- Family is receiving or eligible for TANF, SSI or SNAP benefits
- Child is experiencing homelessness (e.g. in shelter, "couch-surfing"; non-permanent nighttime residence)
- Child is in foster care

Save The Date

05.09.2026 - Community Baby Shower: Join Building Healthy Families for their 12th Annual Community Baby Shower, scheduled from 10AM-2PM at Southside Mall. This event has everything new and expectant parents want to know about pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, fatherhood, babies, and beyond.

12TH ANNUAL BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES
COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER
SATURDAY, MAY 9
10AM - 2PM
Everything you want to know about pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, fatherhood, babies, and beyond.
ALL FREE - GIFTS, GAMES, PRIZES & PRESENTATIONS
SOUTHSIDE MALL
6006 STATE HIGHWAY 2 B, ONEONTA
Bassett Healthcare Network | Opportunities for Otsego | SOUTH SIDE MALL
Building Healthy Families. Together we can make a difference.

05.25.2026 - Memorial Day: Agency closed in recognition of the holiday. EHP & VIP shelters and hotlines still available to those in need.

05.26.2026-05.29.2026 - Spring Spirit Week: The Staff Appreciation Committee is planning fun activities leading up to the Staff Picnic. See the flyer in this newsletter for details.

05.29.2026 - Staff Appreciation Day: Lunch and festivities are planned for Fortin Park in Oneonta. **Agency closes at 10 AM.** Staff must report to their sites as usual in the morning. Staff may be dismissed at 10AM to travel to Fortin Park & may leave for the day at 2:30 PM.

06.06.2026 - Spring Carnival: Join Head Start - Rain or Shine - for their Annual Spring Carnival, 10AM-1PM at the Oneonta Boys & Girls Club. This free family event features games, activity stations, live children's music, face painting, goat yoga, and free treats.

HEAD START EARLY HEAD START
SPRING CARNIVAL
Saturday, June 6th
10AM - 1PM
Oneonta Boys & Girls Club
Free Family Fun and Activities
This event is funded by Opportunities for Otsego in partnership with the Oneonta Boys & Girls Club.

VIP Brings Clothesline Project to SUNY Oneonta

The Clothesline Project is a powerful visual display that bears witness to the experiences of survivors of violence. During the exhibit, a clothesline is hung with shirts, each uniquely decorated to tell an individual's story. These shirts are created by survivors or by loved ones in their honor. **The project aims to uplift and give voice to those affected by violence against women, men, and children, while also supporting healing by providing a space to share stories and connect with others.** It also serves as an important reminder of the widespread impact of violence in our communities.

This year, the Clothesline Project was displayed at SUNY Oneonta's Hunt Union from April 9–16 in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The exhibit was accessible to all who visited the space, including students, faculty, staff, and community members attending campus events, offering many the opportunity to engage with and reflect on its message.

We hope the display honored those affected by violence and provided a meaningful space for reflection, connection, and remembrance. Thank you to our campus partners for their collaboration and support in bringing this important initiative to the community.

Submitted by [Paige Wandelt](#), VIP Campus Advocate/Coordinator



Caring Across Generations

As highlighted in our most recent **Community Needs Assessment**, Otsego County's aging population continues to grow and more grandparents are taking on responsibility for the care of their grandchildren. Take a moment to watch the Otsego County Office for the Aging's short, informative videos to see how they've been making a difference in our community for the past 51 years, and an overview of the services they offer older adults and caregivers.

Staff Appreciation Week

The Staff Appreciation Committee is excited for the Annual Staff Appreciation Picnic. The picnic will be at **Fortin Park in Oneonta** from **10:30AM-2:30PM**. The Committee is planning a relaxing day filled with lawn games, kickball, and raffle prizes. **Staff are encouraged to bring their own lawn games, board games, and cards.** Lunch will be **catered by Brooks House of BBQ** and includes chicken, pulled pork, beans, baked potatoes, coleslaw, tossed salad and rolls. Back by popular demand - **A Dessert Contest!**

Agency closes at 10 AM. Staff must report to their sites as usual in the morning. Staff may be dismissed at 10AM to travel to Fortin Park and may leave for the day at 2:30 PM. Please consider carpooling to the Picnic.

Leading up to the Picnic will be **Spirit Week** with **bragging rights for the Most Festive Team:**

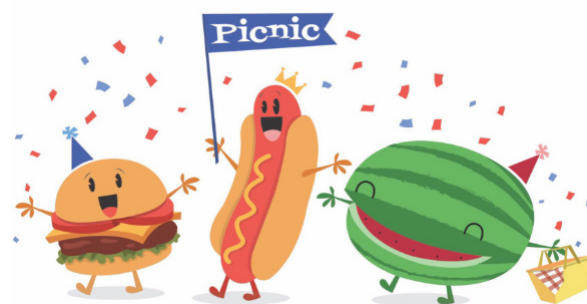
Monday, May 25th - Agency Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, May 26th - Rhyme Without Reason: Grab a co-worker or participate as a team to dress in outfits that rhyme with each other but have no logical connection. The fun lies in the absurdity - the more bizarre the pairing, the better the laugh.

Wednesday, May 27th - Decade Day: Pick a decade and go wild - 80's neon, 90's graphic t-shirts and baggy jeans, whatever your heart desires....as long as it's work-appropriate ;)

Thursday, May 28th - Wacky Hair & Crazy Socks: Go bold up top and fun down below – crazy hair, crazier socks!

Friday, May 29th - Team Matching: Show your Team Spirit at the Staff Picnic. Teams are not limited to dress in the same color - get creative!



Thank you to the Committee - Ally Porack, Andrea Barrows, Corinne Wheeler, Crystal Sutliff, Heather Cotten, Jasmine Chianta, Stacy Schreiber, Jill Oliver & Heather Brown - for their time and commitment to planning this event for all.

Submitted by [Ally Porack](#), Executive Assistant

Staff Spotlights



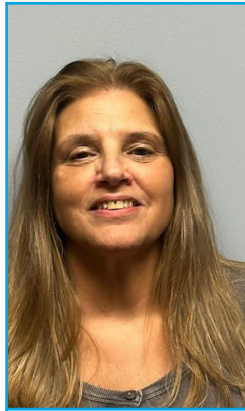
NEW

Addison Andrews
Classroom Aide
SUCO Head Start



NEW

Jennifer Dileo
Counseling Advocate
Violence Intervention Program



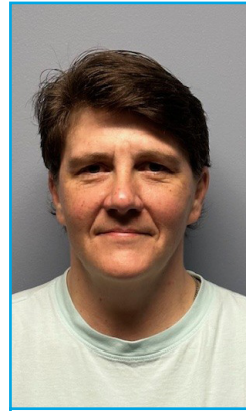
NEW

Eileen Gregg
Classroom Aide
River Street Head Start



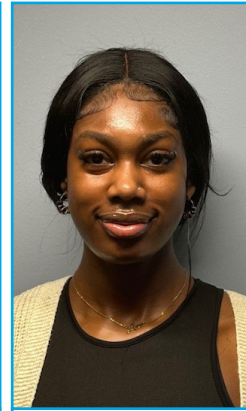
NEW

Maddison Schroll
Assistant Teacher
Cooperstown Head Start



NEW

Corinne Simmons
Shelter Associate
Emergency Housing



NEW

Lena Young
Shelter Associate
Emergency Housing



PROMOTION

Jaydyn Marsh
Home Energy Auditor
Energy Services



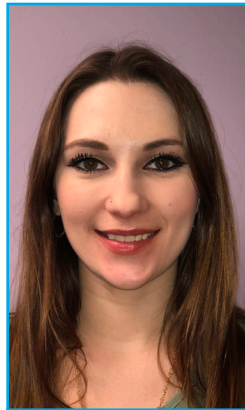
MILESTONE

Diana Foster
WIC Breastfeeding Peer
Counselor
5 Years



MILESTONE

Kimberly Ross
Training and Data
Coordinator - Head Start
10 Years



MILESTONE

Stefanie Abrams
Head Start Family Partner
15 Years



MILESTONE

Tom Reardon
Facilities Supervisor
20 Years

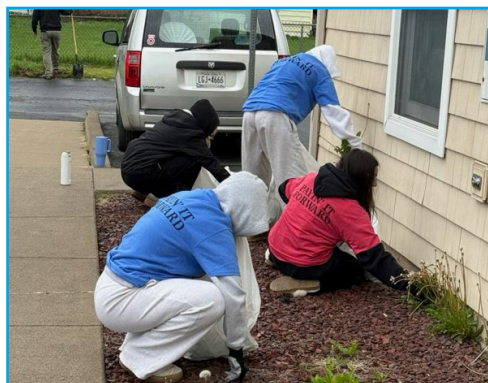
Are you looking for a change or know someone who be a perfect fit for OFO? **We have openings in programs across the agency with varying schedules, levels of experience and responsibility.**

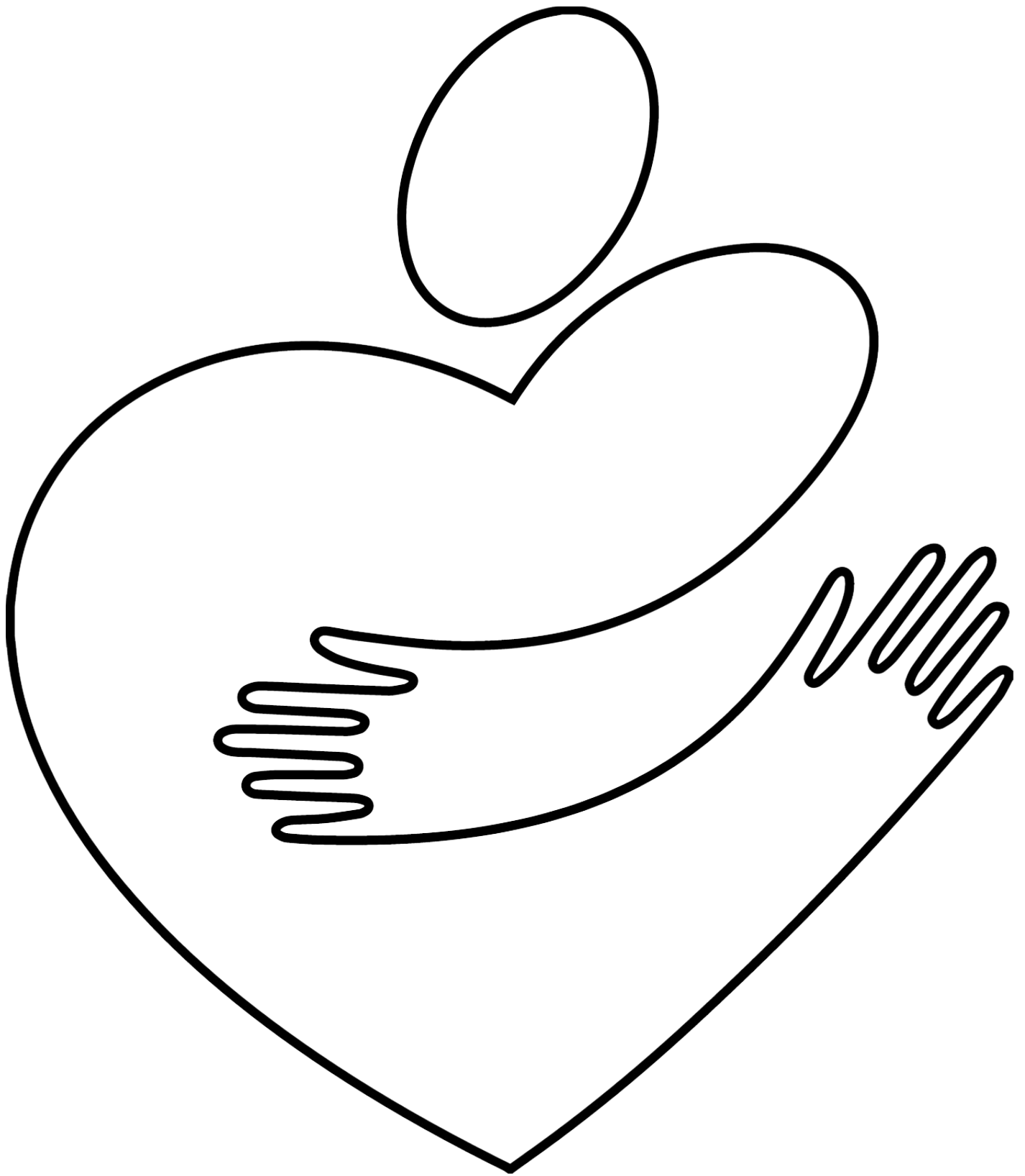
For details and application instructions, visit ofoinc.org/jobs

Into the Streets

On Saturday, April 25th, **SUNY Oneonta volunteers** descended upon Opportunity House for their annual community service event, "Into The Street." Students rolled up their sleeves and got to work tackling a variety of outdoor projects, including clearing overgrown landscaping, removing debris, and refreshing the grounds to help create a more welcoming and vibrant environment around the shelter. Their energy and teamwork made a visible difference in just a few hours, giving the space a much-needed spruce-up. This annual event aims to promote volunteerism, strengthen community ties, and foster civic responsibility.

Submitted by *Mandy Erwood-Dumond, Emergency Housing Program Manager*





HELPING PEOPLE
CHANGING LIVES