

The Broadway Bulletin

A monthly publication of Opportunities for Otsego

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

September 2026
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Celebrating 60 Years of Opportunities, Growth, and Community

This year marks a remarkable milestone for Opportunities for Otsego as we celebrate our 60th anniversary. **For six decades, our organization has worked alongside individuals, families, and community partners throughout Otsego County, helping to create opportunities, strengthen independence, and improve quality of life.**

Since our founding in 1966 as part of the War on Poverty initiative, Opportunities for Otsego has grown from a small community action agency into a comprehensive organization offering programs and services that touch thousands of lives each year. While our programs have evolved to meet changing community needs, our mission has remained constant: helping people and changing lives.

Over the past 60 years, we've reached many important milestones, including:

- Expanding services to support children and families through early childhood education and family development programs.
- Growing housing and homelessness prevention initiatives to help individuals and families find safe, stable places to call home.
- Increasing access to nutrition, energy assistance, and community support services that help neighbors meet essential needs.
- Expanding victim services to ensure survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes have access to advocacy, support, and resources that promote safety, recovery, and empowerment.
- Building strong partnerships with local governments, non-profits, businesses, and community organizations to create lasting impact across Otsego County.
- Continuously adapting our programs to respond to emerging challenges, including economic changes, public health emergencies, and the evolving needs of our community.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our staff - past and present. **Every department, every program, and every employee has played a role in shaping Opportunities for Otsego into the organization it is today. Whether you've been with us for decades or joined recently, your commitment, compassion, and professionalism make a difference every day.**

As we celebrate this anniversary throughout the year, let us all take time to reflect on the stories, achievements, and people who have defined our history. Whether sharing memories from longtime employees, recognize significant moments in our journey, or highlight the work that continues to make a positive impact in our community.

While we're proud of the past 60 years, we're equally excited about what lies ahead. The challenges facing our communities continue to evolve, and so will Opportunities for Otsego. Together, we'll continue to innovate, collaborate, and serve with the same dedication that has guided us since 1966.

Thank you to every employee, volunteer, board member, partner, and supporter who has been part of this journey. Your passion and commitment have made these 60 years possible - and will help shape the next 60.

Happy 60th Anniversary, Opportunities for Otsego!



Save The Date

09.07.2026 - Agency Closed: Agency offices will be closed in recognition of the Labor Day Holiday.*

09.15.2026 - First Day of Head Start: Head Start Preschool opens their classrooms for the 2026-27 program year.

09.29.2026 - National Hunger Action Day: Everyone can "Play Your Part," in bringing awareness to food insecurity and the work of food pantries and feeding programs by wearing orange on this day.

10.01.2026 - New CSBG Year - Reminder: Folks accessing services beginning 10/1 must have a 2026-2027 CSBG form on file and a new service activity added in Captain if they are "rolling over" from the last CSBG year. Staff should reference their Supervisor with questions.

10.12.2026 - Columbus Day: Agency offices will be closed in recognition of the holiday.*

10.23.2026 - The Otsego Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect 39th Annual Conference: This year's topic is Cell Phone and Social Media Safety. Registration information will be out soon.

The Emergency Housing and Violence Intervention Program 24-hour hotlines and shelters will still be accessible to those in need.

Parking at 3WB

With staff returning from summer break, the parking lot at 3 West Broadway will near capacity. Staff should avoid parking along the fence in the spaces designated for the 6th Ward Athletic Club. Rather, park on either side of the building or in the end spaces in the front lot. *Spots along the front closest to the entry should be reserved for visitors.* When parking, be sure to park between established lines so we can accommodate everyone and prevent damage to other vehicles. **If your car is parked on or over a line, please be courteous and re-park your vehicle.**

Reminders: Staff not assigned a door code to 3WB must **sign-in and be prepared to show their badge when entering through the main door.** If needing to enter through a side door, please reach out to your program/department staff to gain access to the building - please do not knock on the side doors to gain entry as it is disruptive to those working.

Building Healthy Families Celebrates Graduates

Staff and fifty family members gathered under the Wilber Park pavilion on August 20th to celebrate participation in Building Healthy Families. Ten families said good-bye to their home visitors this year with seven transitioning to Kindergarten after six years with the program. Heavy rain kept people from the playground, but it did not dampen the celebratory atmosphere. Participants enjoyed food from Brooks' House of Bar-B-Q, an interactive scavenger hunt, sensory play, and lawn games. There was opportunity to "write a wish for your child" and decorate a mortar board or grocery bag. Graduate families were sent off with a backpack filled with school supplies and diplomas, of course! All families received party favors to take home.



Summer at OFO: No Time to Kick Back!

Summer may have brought sunshine and warm weather, but for the staff at OFO, it was anything but a slow season. Programs stayed busy getting out into the community, promoting services, connecting with families, and supporting events all around the county.

From Popticles in the Park and the Oneonta Police Department's National Night Out to the Oneonta Veterans Stand Down event and, of course, the Otsego County Fair, OFO staff were there, rain or shine, making connections and getting the word out.

A big thank-you to the staff who kept things moving all summer long!



100+ Women Support VIP

The Violence Intervention Program was selected as the recipient of \$5,900 at the July 100+ Women Who Care: Otsego County event, an evening dedicated to connecting community members with local nonprofit organizations and supporting their work.

During the event, attendees learned about several local nonprofits before voting to select which organization should receive funds raised at the door.

This generous contribution will help support operations at VIP's domestic violence shelter.



WIC Recognizes World Breastfeeding Week

WIC joined communities across the country in celebrating World Breastfeeding Week and WIC Breastfeeding Week in August, recognizing the important role breastfeeding plays in supporting healthy families.

Throughout these observances, WIC highlighted how the program support families by:

- Promoting breastfeeding as an important source of nutrition for infants.
- Providing breastfeeding education, resources, and community support.
- Advocating for supportive policies and environments.
- Recognizing that every breastfeeding journey is unique and supporting families with compassion, whatever their feeding journey may look like.

WIC was proud to celebrate the families, communities, and support systems that help make breastfeeding goals possible.

Classes Begin September 15th

Head Start is accepting applications for Fall enrollment. Program options include Home-based Head Start (ages birth to 5); Center-based Toddler classrooms in Oneonta; and Center-based Preschool located in Cooperstown, Morris, Oneonta, Schenectady, and Unadilla. **Families can self-screen for eligibility and apply on the website or reach out to headstart@ofoinc.org or 607.433.8055.**

Staff Spotlights

Lydia & Jill in Human Resources have been Busy Beavers since June! *Staff updates since 7/1/2026*

A special thank you to Amy Leech and Kelly Johnson for going above and beyond - coming in during their usual summer time off to conduct Head Start interviews. We truly appreciate their willingness to step up, give their time, and help make sure our centers are ready to serve our families and children.



NEW
Tess Clapper
Violence Intervention Program
Crisis Shelter Associate



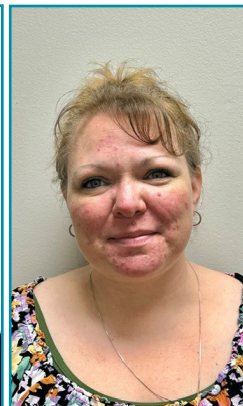
NEW
Allison Durrin
Assistant Teacher
SUCO Head Start



NEW
Gabriella Gavin
Early Head Start
Classroom Teacher II



NEW
Eric Hall
Crew Leader (Tech II)
Energy Services



NEW
Megan Jenison
Assistant Teacher
Morris Head Start



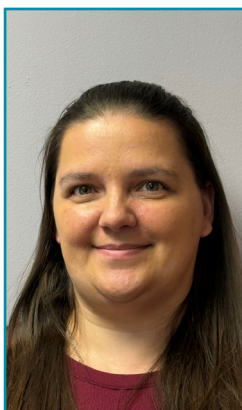
NEW
Beth Lewis
Classroom Teacher
SUCO Head Start



NEW
Gaylen Thompson
Violence Intervention Program
Crisis Shelter Associate



NEW
Abigail Wonderly
Assistant Teacher
SUCO Head Start



PROMOTION
Dawn Carmody
Early Head Start
Classroom Teacher I



PROMOTION
Kelly Johnson
Center Director
SUCO Head Start



TRANSFER & MILESTONE
Andrea Barrows
Head Start Education/
Disabilities Specialist
10 Years



MILESTONE
Rosemary Copperwheat
Assistant Teacher
40 Years

Happy Birthday

Tammy Bailey	9/04
Doug Ives	9/07
Shelley Wilkerson	9/09
Trang Roux	9/11
Diana Foster	9/12
Andrea Barrows	9/14
Paige Wandelt	9/23
Kelsey VanAlstyne	9/27
Megan Martin	9/30

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

DON'T FORGET! OFO has a Pilot Employee Referral Program – \$500 max reward. At this time it is limited to referrals for open Weatherization Crew positions

TRANSFERS

- Jacqueline Hinckley, Assistant Teacher > Cooperstown Head Start
- Amy Leech, Teacher/Center Director > Morris Head Start
- Nicholle Parker > Emergency Housing Office Administrator/WTW Coord.
- Stephanie Russell, Center Director > River St. Head Start
- Colleen Utter, Classroom Aide > River St. Head Start
- Corinne Wheeler > Housing Case Coordinator

Kudos to **Amy Leech** (Morris Teacher/Center Director) on attaining her Pre-K CLASS Observer certification. CLASS helps child care providers nurture children's early learning while responding to their needs and fostering a secure, supportive base for learning and exploration. CLASS Observers collect CLASS teaching assessment data, allowing the program to identify strengths and areas to improve in regard to the quality of teacher-student interactions in the classroom. HS extends a big "THANK YOU" to Amy for her continued dedication and commitment to the children and families we serve!