# OREIDA PROUD

— Honoring Our Volunteer Community —









Oneida Daily Dispatch
oneidadispatch,com

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#### cover images:

Karen Litwak Oneida Area
Zonta 2015 Status of Women recipient on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. JOHN HAEGER-ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH @ONEIDAPHOTO ON TWITTER

Leah McDonald - Oneida Daily Dispatch
Volunteers paint children's faces at the Oneida Rec Center as part of the City of Oneida Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015.

Charles Pritchard - Oneida Daily Dispatch
The Oneida Rotary holds its annual Thanksgiving luncheon at the Kallet Civic Center on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017.

Leah McDonald - Oneida Daily Dispatch

Red Cross volunteers stand with Mayor Leo Matzke and Madison-Oneida Red Cross chapter chairman Pat Powers at City Hall on Friday, March 24, 2017.



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## Oneida Healthcare

**VOLUNTEERS BRING SKILLS, WARMTH TO HOSPITAL** 



Leah McDonald - Oneida Daily Dispatch
Volunteer Barb Cukierski and Volunteer Coordinator Terri Welcher greet visitors in the
front lobby of Oneida Healthcare on Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018.

By Leah McDonald Imcdonald@ oneidadispatch.com @OneidaDispatch on Twitter

Oneida, N.Y. >> Whether it's delivering the mail, greeting visitors, playing harp for a patient or bringing a beloved pet to visit residents at the Extended Care Facility, volunteers are an integral part of Oneida Healthcare.

"We're here to help people," said volunteer Barb Cukierski, who has been with Oneida Healthcare for 31 years. "They aren't coming to us for anything except help and we're here to offer that help in any way we

About 93 people volunteer at OHC throughout the year, though the number increases over the summer with high school and college volunteers, said Volunteer Coordinator Terri Welcher.

"The majority of my people see volunteering as an opportunity to give back to the community," Welcher said. "It's also a chance to socialize."

"I saw the valuable contribution Oneida Healthcare makes while I was working here, and I wanted to give back to my community," said 7-year volunteer Jean Smith, an OHC retiree. She works mostly with office personnel delivering the mail, but

she also will help direct patients and families if the need arises.

"I'm helping my community. I'm helping the facility I retired from," she said. "It makes me feel good."

Chris Matters worked in housekeeping at Oneida Healthcare for years before retiring. She's volunteered at the hospital for the past 5 years, greeting visitors alongside Cukierski.

"I figured I cleaned every inch of this place, so I can help other people get around," Matters said.

"I love being able to help other people," Cukierski added. "You're definitely not doing it for yourself. You're doing it for the people that you see. And I think it's nice when people come in and see a friendly face."

"It's giving in its finest form," Welcher said. "You give of yourself."

The volunteers support

staff, patients and residents in a number of ways, Welcher said, and the hospital is always looking for more volunteers who want to bring their various skill sets, personalities and time to OHC. Support can range from chatting with someone, helping visitors find their way around, or working with staff to free up their time to be with patients, such as running errands or moving carts.

Volunteers are also an important component of the Extended Care Facility, where they help residents with various activities throughout the day, as well as transporting them throughout the building.

"We have such a large organization that we have a wide assortment of possibilities," Welcher said. "If you have skills you'd like to bring to us, we'd love to sit down and talk about it and see if we have a place for those skills."

While the hospital can't offer all who apply exactly what they're looking for, they will do their best to find a perfect fit for those looking to volunteer, Welcher added.

"Small communities in particular are seeing declines in population, so anything anyone can do to help their community is necessary," Smith said.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the hospital can contact Terri Welcher at 315-361-2049, email twelcher@ oneidahealthcare.org, or visit http://www.oneidahealthcare.org/ to find out more information. Oneida Healthcare is located at 321 Genesee St., Oneida.



Leah McDonald - Oneida Daily Dispatch
Volunteer Jean Smith delivers mail to Oneida Healthcare employee Andrea Narrow on
Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018.

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of those we serve
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of our progress"
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## Oneida Zonta Club

SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING WOMEN



Officers for the 2018-2020 biennium,
From left are Theresa Harris, District 2 Lt. Gov.; Barbara Allen, Oneida Zonta President;
Cindy Thurston, Vice-President; Maria Schmitt, Treasurer; Karen Puglisi, Recording
Secretary; Sandy Finley, Corresponding Secretary/Historian. The back row from left
are Sue Pulverenti and Shelley Major, incoming board members. Missing is Assistant
Treasurer Gail Strong.

Oneida, N.Y. >>
The Zonta Club of
the Oneida area was
chartered in May 1924,
and includes the areas of
the Canastota, Oneida,
Stockbridge Valley and
Vernon-Verona-Sherrill
school districts. Zonta
International was formed
in Buffalo and was
chartered in November
1919 (before women had
the vote).

For the past century and into the future, Zonta

service projects at the local and international levels strive to meet Zonta's mission of empowering women through service and advocacy. Locally, most funds raised by the club go to support scholarship awards, as education is an excellent way to empower women to succeed.

Oneida Zonta awards scholarships to high school students who demonstrate strong community service and leadership in public affairs. They provide financial awards to "non-traditional student" women training to enter the work force.

In addition to that.

the club tries to support women who are facing difficulties or obstacles in their paths to their goals. Zonta provides chemo care bags for women undergoing treatment at the Roswell Park Cancer Care Center at Oneida Healthcare. They give clothing to the Oneida Health **Emergency Department** so women can have clothes to go home in after arriving at the ED and having to give up their clothes (as evidence in domestic violence cases, for example). The group donates feminine personal care items to local food banks and to the Office for the Aging

so women can stay healthy and preserve their dignity.

Projects may change from one biennium to the next, as community needs and membership abilities change, but Oneida Zonta's overall goal is to support and empower the women of the area through service projects and advocacy efforts

Most Zonta members first got into volunteering for the organization through friends and family. Volunteering has given several of them a sense of community through giving back and making contributions to the wellbeing of others.

"I feel more involved in my community, more a part of things. And I meet a lot of good people," said at least one volunteer.

"I believe that anytime an organization or an individual volunteers, there is a positive outcome," said another volunteer. "That is what makes me feel good about belonging to a service organization."

"I'd like to think
that our efforts to
support women in our
community make this a
better place to live for
everyone," said another
volunteer. "When you
support women, they
are better able to
support their families
and everyone comes out
ahead."

"We as a club

encourage young girls and women to achieve their goals in life and to be proud of their accomplishments," added another volunteer. "The girls in the Oneida High School Z Club will hopefully become the next generation of adult Zontians. This gives me

a sense of hope for our future."

Several of the Zonta Club volunteers have had many notable experiences, including honoring other women in the community. For one volunteer, honoring Dr. Dina Radelias, a Bosnian refugee who fled to America at the age of 12 and who spoke no English when she arrived, was one such experience. Now a tenured professor at Mohawk Valley Community College, Radelias earned her Ph.D. in 2014.

"The enormous gratitude she conveyed at the ceremony made me proud to be a member of Zonta," the volunteer said.

Another volunteer felt strongly about the Mildred Ridley awards given to women who



A group of Zontians make their first delivery of chemo care bags to the Roswell Park Cancer Care Center at Oneida Healthcare. Mixed in with the Zontians are are employee of the Center.

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enter or re-enter the work force. "Our winners are women who are challenging themselves to improve their lives. I've met a few of them in the years after they'd graduated and it makes me feel good to see their successes."

members, volunteering is a way to interact with the community and form connections with people from all walks of life. "In addition to the personal satisfaction, the community reaps the rewards as well," said one volunteer."

For the Zonta Club

"If everyone does their little bit, together we can accomplish a lot!" said another.

"I think if we are really invested in our community, it improves life for everyone," another volunteer added.

Zonta is ready to

welcome new members. The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month from September through June at Theodore's in Canastota.For more information, email oneida@zontadistrict2. org, visit oneidazonta. org, or write to PO Box 199, Wampsville, NY 13163.

Those interested in volunteering can also ioin them in the programs and fundraisers that Zonta Club of the Oneida Area sponsors throughout the vear. These events also help support the local OHS Z Club, the student group sponsored by Zonta. They also help the Madison County Historical Society by staffing the gates for the annual Craft Festival, where they also have their own table.

### **YMCA**

#### YMCA DOES THEIR PART FOR THE COMMUNITY



Charles Pritchard - Oneida Daily Dispatch
Valerie Smith, 14, of Rome, shoots her bow at the YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley's Learn
to Shoot Archery Clinic on Wednesday, July 18, 2018.

Oneida, N.Y. >> A part of the Oneida community for around 25 years, the YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley opens its doors to all.

Established in the mid-

1800s, the YMCA was created as a response to the changing times and living conditions of the Industrial Revolution, and has only grown in size and scope since its inception.

The Oneida Family Y almost wasn't meant to be; when a study was conducted more than two decades ago, it was suggested that the YMCA not be built in Oneida because there wouldn't be enough people to sign up. Local community leaders ignored the suggestion and went ahead with construction of a new YMCA.

Today, the Oneida
Family Y offers
everything from aquatic
therapy and archery
classes to babystitting
and first aid certification
courses. Through
physical activity and
a healthy lifestyle, the
Oneida Family Y tries to
create a fun, creative and
optimistic environment.

Age and financial status are no barriers to the Oneida Family Y.

From ages 8 to 80, all are invited to attend. Those who can't afford it are not turned away and instead, provided financial assistance by the Oneida Family Y.

But above all, the Oneida Family Y stresses building a healthy mind and spirit alongside a healthy body. Through the Learn to Shoot Archery Clinic, the Oneida Family Y has helped teach children that archery can not only be fun, but a tool to better themselves by building self-esteem, confidence, focus and attention.

The Oneida YMCA is located at 701 Seneca St., Oneida.

For details about membership and programs, visit www. ymcatrivalley.org or call at 363-7788.



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## Carl Carlstead

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE RED CROSS BRINGS YEARS OF FULFILLMENT



Carl Carlstead - American Red Cross Submitted Photo
Carl Carlstead has volunteered for the American Red Cross for more than 20 years, and

Oneida, N.Y. >> For years, Carl Carlstead has volunteered for the American Red Cross, an organization that helps millions around the country and beyond during natural disasters, house fires, during emergencies and more.

"My first volunteer opportunity was in the military, where I proudly served in the United States Air Force for 26 years," Carlstead said. "I was deployed throughout the world including Germany, Greenland, Italy, Korea, Thailand, and Libya as well as several locations in the U.S. I spent five years at Cape Canaveral, working alongside our nation's first six astronauts.

"I was last stationed in Ontario, N.Y. After retirement in 1981, I was a civilian contractor at Rome Research and at the Verona test site. I fell in love with the community and have been here ever since."

Carlstead's association with the Red Cross began about 20 years ago.

"I was visiting my sister and husband in Dallas, Texas. She was a volunteer with the American Red Cross there, so I tagged along as she went to the local office," he said. "To kill some time, I decided to take some training courses to become a disaster volunteer. I was hooked and I signed up as a volunteer here

when I returned."

For Carlstead, he said being part of the Red Cross gives him satisfaction when he can help someone who's down. "It's a tremendous feeling. One of my favorite quotes is from Walter Winchell, 'A real friend is the one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.""

Volunteering for the Red Cross is a way to help strengthen the community, as "a community is only as strong as its people," Carlstead said.

"Here in Oneida, we're blessed to have so many people who are compassionate and committed to helping each other out. None of us are alone. We lift each other up." After so many years volunteering, Carlstead has several memories, but a few in particular stand out.

"Following the flooding in 2013, there was a tremendous outpouring of support from the community," Carlstead recalled. "Many organizations, including the Red Cross, provided support. The residents who were impacted were very appreciative of the help they were getting.

"I've also deployed about 30 times to other regions of the country," he added. "My most memorable experience was volunteering at a camp for Kosovo refugees at Fort Dix, N.J. in 1999. Many of the families had been there. One day, a young boy, probably around age 7, came to me and asked me to take him to the airport in Philadelphia. His parents had been located in Switzerland and they were being brought here to be reunited. I drove him to the airport to greet his parents as they arrived. It's was one of the most memorable moments of my life."

separated by the war

Carlstead encourages others in the community to volunteer, either with the Red Cross or another organization.

"There are many organizations doing great work here," he said. "The Red Cross is one of them. We've been serving the community for more than 100 years.

Volunteer service is a rewarding experience. It's a great way to spend some extra time."

"The vital work of the American Red Cross is made possible by people who contribute their unique backgrounds. talents and skill levels." Carlstead said, "Our needs change based on current events, adding flexibility to get you involved in an area that inspires you. We have volunteer opportunities to match a wide range of interests and time commitment. Contact vour local chapter to find out more about what is available in your area."

Visit redcross.org/ volunteer to find opportunities and apply.



Leah McDonald - Oneida Daily Dispatch

## United Way

#### HELPING FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Oneida, N.Y. >> For 67 years, the United Way of Greater Oneida has looked to improve the lives of those in need within the greater Oneida area.

The United Way of Greater Oneida supports the programs of 15 non-profit agencies in the Greater Oneida and Madison County area.

All the money raised stays local to support the agency's mission of creating a stronger,

healthier and safer community through identifying and funding agencies that best provide programs and services to those in the community with the greatest needs. The agencies United Way supports are varied and cover everything from helping the homeless to finding animals a good home.

The United Way supports the American Red Cross, Catholic

Charities of Madison County, Church on the Rock Food Pantry. Community Action Partnership for Madison County, Hazel Carpenter Home, Heritage Farm, Hospice & Palliative Care of Oneida, Herkimer and Fastern Madison Counties, Karing Kitchen, Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Madison County Children's Camp. Oneida Area Day Care Center, St. Patrick's Food Pantry, Help Restore Hope Center and Liberty Resources. Wanderers' **Rest Humane Association** and Oneida City Youth Court.

Every year, the United Way also partners with Wilber-Duck Chevrolet to raise money through the Wilber-Duck Mile, a one mile run/walk that helps support local charities through the United Way. The board of directors



Dispatch Staff Photo
Patrick Mautner and Beth Kelly bring food to the St. Patrick's Food Pantry as part of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater
Oneida 15 Can Challenge on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015.

has also taken part every year since 2014 in the 15 Can Challenge. The idea is to collect one can of food each week over 15 weeks and then deliver to an area food pantry late in January. With a board of 21 members, this

provides more than 300 food items. Those looking to make a donations to the United Way can mail them to The United Way of Greater Oneida, P.O. Box 648, Oneida, N.Y. 13421 or may be securely processed through

PayPal on their site at unitedwayofgreateroneida.org.

For more information about the United Way of Greater Oneida, call 315-363-5779, email united-wayoneida@twcny.rr.com, or visit http://unitedwayofgreateroneida.org.



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## Oneida Elks

SUPPORTING VETERANS THROUGH OUTREACH, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



John Brewer - Oneida Daily Dispatch
Veterans talk with fourth grade students at North Broad Elementary School in Oneida as part of their annual Veterans Day program on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016.

Oneida, N.Y. >> Public service is an integral part of being an Elk. In keeping with this tradition, Elks create and participate in several programs to better their community, including scholarships, sports, educational events and recreation.

Each year, the Elks
National Foundation
provides more than
\$3.65 million in college
scholarships to graduating
seniors. In Oneida, Aaron
Scott leads the scholarship
committee.

Former Oneida City School District teacher Jim Tuggy leads the Oneida Hoop Shoot committee. The yearly Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw Program is open to all boys and girls ages 8-13. The contest starts at the lodge level and advances through district, state and regional contests before the national finals in the spring.

Tuggy has also been an integral force in the North Broad Street Elementary Veterans Day interviews, where students have the opportunity to learn about veterans and what they've done for their country. For almost 20 years, the program has taught students the value of America's veterans and the sacrifices they've made for the country.

As well as the student programs, Tuggy chairs the Veterans Programs committee.

The Elks Drug Awareness Program, headed by Louise Mosack, distributes literature and organizes events to make kids and their parents aware of the dangers posed by alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

The Elks Lodge also offers other youth-oriented activities, including Soccer Shoot, the Antlers program, the yearly Americanism essay contest.

One of the biggest events the Elks host is the Flag Day ceremony, which brings together community groups, dignitaries and the public to celebrate the flag and what it stands for.

Since the early days of Elkdom, the Veterans Service Commission has served those Elks who have fought for America. The Elks hold outreach programs to help veterans improve their quality of life, while also aiding the community through a variety of programs such as soup kitchens, lunches, summer camps and more, according to The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America website at https://www.elks. orq/.

The Oneida Elks Lodge No. 767 is located at 191 Main St. in Oneida. For more information on how to join or volunteer, visit https:// www.elks.org/lodges/home. cfm?LodgeNumber=767.

## Rotary

ONEIDA ROTARY PRACTICES SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Oneida, N.Y. >> "Service Above Self" is not just the Oneida Rotary's motto, it's their way of life.

Every member of the Oneida Rotary Club works to better the community through support projects and activism, whether it be a hot meal or some outdoor work.

Rotarians take time out of their holiday schedule to peel potatoes, slice carrots, dice onions and chop onions for the annual Rotary Thanksgiving luncheon. For more than 20 years, Rotary has provided community members with a hot meal on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. To serve as many people as they can, Rotarians spend hours alone peeling potatoes and prepare 31 turkeys to go into the oven on Tuesday morning, Dibbles Inn provides space for prep work, and assists in

preparing the food, which includes turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, rolls, cranberry, corn and pie for dessert.

Volunteers serve a feast to serve community members from the greater Oneida area at the Kallet Civic Center and also deliver the hot, home-cooked meals to residents of the Oneida Towers. They also make deliveries to those unable to leave their homes.

Oneida Rotary recently planted around 60 trees at the YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley to celebrate Earth Day and rise to the challenge presented to them by 2017-2018 Rotary International President Ian Riseley who urged Rotary clubs across the

nation to plant a tree for every member.

Oneida Rotary also helps students study abroad all over the world, from Japan to the Netherlands.

The Oneida Rotary's "Roses to the Living" awards recognizes the devotion Rotarians make to improving the lives of those living in Oneida and the Central New York community. For one time in the year. Rotarians tell a little white lie and keep the nominations secret right up until the day of the award go through the years of accomplishments and work of those who deserve to be recognized.

To learn more about the Oneida Rotary, visit their website at https:// rotary7150.org/



Charles Pritchard - Oneida Daily Dispatch
Perry Tooker III, right, and Matt Lacy peel potatoes on Nov. 20 2017 at Dibbles Inn.





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## Oneida Youth Court

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS MAKING
DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

By Leah McDonald students who volunteer their time to be bailiffs, oneidadispatch.com @OneidaDispatch on Twitter more, said Investigator Kip Bailey, who is the Youth Court gives local students an up-close students who volunteer their time to be bailiffs, defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges and more, said Investigator Kip Bailey, who is the Juvenile Aid Officer at the Oneida Police

and personal look at

state, Oneida Youth

America's judicial system.

The longest running

youth court in New York

Court is run entirely by

"They can really just choose what they want to do," Bailey said, noting how some of the students are more

Department.

Photo Courtesy Oneida City Police



Photo Courtesy Oneida City Police
Oneida Youth Court members stage a mock trial at Oneida City Court in April 2018. They were joined by members of the executive board, as well as Judge Anthony Eppolito.

skittish than others to take the lead and be judge.

Several of those participating show an interest in the field of law enforcement and law. Bailey recalled at least one student who served as a judge in Youth Court who then went on to law school - something she'd had her sights on for a long time.

"I think a lot of the times the kids just want to help," Bailey said. "They're just trying to make a difference in their city."

The court is run the same as any other court system in the U.S., with defendants meeting with clients and parents while prosecutors bring up charges. Defendants have the right to plead

not guilty and can go to trial, and the students make sure the rights of each defendant are upheld. Confidentiality is a high priority, and any student found breaking that confidence is reprimanded. But Bailey said that's never been a problem.

"They're all good, responsible kids," he said. Youth Court handles offenses ranging from violations to misdemeanors among their peers. Those found guilty are often sentenced to community service.

But Youth Court is less about punishing offenders than it is getting kids back on the right course, said Bailey, who believes strongly in forgiveness and the



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"Ultimately, you don't want to penalize the kid," he said. "You want to change the behavior. The kids who come through, you want to steer them on the right path."

He also wants to help the kids who volunteer to sit on the court feel important. "They're taking on the responsibility of working to make a difference," he

To that effect, Bailey purchases the Youth Court volunteers new shirts and holds a banquets a couple times throughout the year where students are presented awards, all through funding by the United Way of Greater Oneida.

The Youth Court is also overseen by an executive board, many of whom are law enforcement and legal professionals, as well as educators.

Members of the board include Joanne Miller,
Tina Wayland-Smith, OPD Chief Paul Thompson,
Jackie Carll, Kevin Davies,
Liz Healy, Matt Mosack, and Rob Murano.

Youth Court is also a way for many of these public servants to "get out and help the people," Bailey said.

Currently, there are about 40 to 50 students who serve on Youth Court. When they aren't holding court, the students will run mock trials or receiving training in the various court positions. such as learning the responsibilities of being a judge. The training sessions are also a great way to help students with their public speaking, Bailey said, since several students might find it difficult to speak in front of groups and it gives them a way to practice.

Bailey's goal is to see Youth Court grow to provide more opportunities for students. He also wants to see more Youth Court members volunteer outside of court and in the community, such as when some of them helped at the OPD's bike auction or the Wilber-Duck Mile.

Any student interested in volunteering for Youth Court, or any community member looking to donate to Youth Court, can contact Bailey at 315-363-9111 or email cbailey@oneidacity.com.



Photo Courtesy Oneida City Police Oneida Youth Court members stage a mock trial at Oneida City Court in April 2018. They were joined by members of the executive board, as well as Judge Anthony Eppolito.

## Karing Kitchen

MORE THAN A SOUP KITCHEN

Oneida, N.Y. >> The Karing Kitchen isn't just a soup kitchen; it does so much more.

For the past 30 years. the Karing Kitchen has been a staple of the Oneida community. offering free lunches to anyone who stops by, as well as clothes, items, and monetary support. The Kitchen also works with about 30 other community groups to support those in need, including area churches. youth groups, and civic organizations, keeping duplication of services to a minimum to maximize what each can do for Central New York.

The Kitchen offers lunch the last full week of every month, starting with a coffee hour. The idea is to help families stretch their budgets iust that much more as Food Stamps and other assistance runs out before the start of the next month, according to coordinator Melissa King. Volunteers -- including local high school students -- donate their time to make sure local families can get home-cooked meals.

King also does her best to raise awareness for the plight of the homeless by sleeping outdoors during the winter months for 12 hours

King has staked out a



Dispatch Staff Photo
Ashley King, Melissa King, and Nicholas Park set up a tent in front of the First United Methodist Church in Oneida as they prepare to spend the night to bring awareness to the homeless on Friday, March 28, 2014.

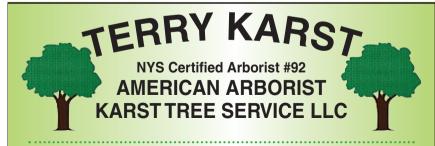
tent in the city at least one night during the winter for the last seven years, all to get the community talking and understand that with no homeless shelter in the area, the homeless go through an ordeal.

Alongside the monthly

meals and homeless awareness, the Karing Kitchen also collects school supplies to help local students.

The Karing Kitchen welcomes volunteers to help with its monthly meals, as well as other outreach programs. They also accept monetary donations, which help them stock their pantry to offer more variety to those who use the Kitchen.

To make a donation or for more information, call 315-363 -2450 or email at KaringKitchen@yahoo.com



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## Gorman Foundation

SUPPORTING CENTRAL NEW YORK THROUGH OUTREACH, FREE CLINIC

Oneida, N.Y. >> The Gorman Foundation has been making a difference in the lives of Central New Yorkers since 2003.

Alice M. Gorman, who passed away in 2002 from breast cancer, stipulated in her will that her fortune be used to create a foundation to support local nonprofits, said great niece Amanda Larson, who runs the Gorman Foundation out of the Northside Shopping Plaza in Oneida. The

foundation emphasizes a commitment to non-profit organizations that contribute to the arts, education, breast cancer research, science or religion - all areas that Gorman herself supported throughout her life.

As of 2016, the Gorman Foundation has awarded \$12.6 million to local charities, including the American Cancer Society, the Arc of Madison Cortland, the Chittenango Landing



Photo Special to the Dispatch by Mike Jaquays
Volunteers of the Mary Rose Clinic in Oneida gather to celebrate their fifth anniversary on
Dec. 16, 2015. Namesake Mary Rose Durfee of Sherrill is seen in the front row, fifth from left.

Canal Boat Museum,
Catholic Charities,
the Madison County
Historical Society,
the Great Swamp
Conservancy, the Oneida
Area Day Care Center,
the Oneida City Center
Committee, the Oneida
Public Library, the YMCA,
and Wanderers' Rest
Humane Association,
among dozens of others.

The foundation has also expanded its outreach to include the Mary Rose Clinic, which provides primary healthcare services to low-income, uninsured and underinsured adults within Madison County and the surrounding areas. Created by Dr. Rathika Martyn and Larson, the clinic is staffed by volunteer nurses, doctors and clerical staff.

Their primary healthcare services include physical exams, disease prevention and screening, education, prescription assistance, and help in finding affordable insurance plans, plus diabetic care instruction, mental health counseling, smoking cessation programs, and laboratory and radiology services.

Since December of 2005, the Mary Rose Clinic has provided more than 5,000 free patient visits.

The Mary Rose Clinic welcomes volunteers, including receptionists, nurses, doctors, office support, prescription assistance, referral partners, and health education programs.

The clinic is open Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers can choose to work in 2 or 4-hour shifts weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

Those interested in volunteering for the Mary Rose Clinic can contact

Alison Zeller, Community Action Partnership for Madison County, at 315-280-0855, or email maryroseclinic@yahoo. com.

For more information on the Mary Rose Clinic, visit http://www.maryrosecenter.org/index.php or call (315) 280-0855. The Mary Rose Clinic is located at 1081 Northside Shopping Center. Oneida.

For more information on the Gorman Foundation, visit http://gormanfoundation.org or call 315-363-0170. The Gorman Foundation is located at 1081 Northside Shopping Center, Oneida.



Dispatch Staff Photo
Dr. Rathika Martyn checks the ear of a
patient during an exam at the Mary Rose
Clinic in Oneida on Wednesday, Feb 27, 2013

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MADISON COUNTY MOTIVATORS SPEAK OUT FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

Oneida, N.Y. >>
The Madison County
Motivators SelfAdvocacy Group want
their community to
know how capable of
giving they are.

Composed of adults with intellectual disabilities, the Madison County Motivators raise awareness of disability, promote having a place and a voice in the community, fight for funding for services, and guide fellow citizens to recognize the need for all people to be represented, according to their mission statement.

"Volunteering makes you think less of your own problems and more about the good you can do for others," said advisor Robin Collins.

"Many people with intellectual disabilities have depression. Being active in volunteering helps them be less depressed."

Volunteering costs only the time those who volunteer can give, Collins said. "It can potentially help the community to be a better place to live. It can potentially make a person with intellectual disabilities who has low self-esteem feel more important."

One particularly strong memory Collins has when it comes to volunteering was taking part in a cancer benefit, where \$7,000 was raised.

"I didn't know the cancer fighter until the benefit happened," Collins said. "I will never



Lean McDonala - Oneida Dany Dispatch The Madison County Motivators Self-Advocacy Group march during the city of Oneida Memorial Day parade on Friday, May 25, 2018.

forget the impact of being a part of such a good thing."

Those who want to help the Madison County Motivators can support them in several ways, Collins said. The group holds two dance fundraisers a year and is always in need of cookie bakers. They are also building up their treasury to take a day trip to Albany, where they will visit the Disability Museum.

Collins said several members of the Motivators want to attend the regional and annual self-advocates conference who struggle financially and would benefit from having a sponsor.

The Motivators are

also avid learners, so anyone who would like to volunteer to teach literacy, technology skills for phones and computers, or who want to teach skills such as knitting, sewing and more are also welcome.

Collins encourages others to volunteer their time to make a positive impact on the community, in small ways and large. "Without good-hearted volunteers, so much would not get done," Collins said.

The Madison County Motivators Self-Advocacy Group is part of the Arc of Madison Cortland, a non-profit that provides leadership in the field of disabilities, supporting people in every manner possible, and developing the necessary human and financial resources to allow all members of the community to achieve their potential. The Arc provides a number of services, including respite services, alternative vocational services, transportation, clinical services, day habilitation,

quardianship programs,

service coordination and

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The Arc of Madison
Cortland is located at
701 Lenox Ave., Oneida.
For more information
about the Madison
County Motivators or
the Arc of Madison
Cortland, or to volunteer,
call 315-363-3389,
email robin.collins@
madisoncortlandarc.
org, or visit https://www.
arcofmc.org.



The Madison County Motivators Self-Advocacy Group helps raise awareness of disability, promote having a place and a voice in the community, fight for funding for services, and guide fellow citizens to recognize the need for all people to be represented.







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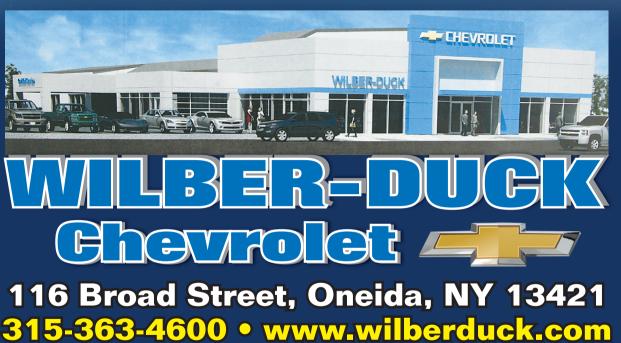
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