

Empowering Families, Inspiring Communities

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



98%

of families kept together with Kids Oneida's support

1,468

families supported by Kids Oneida

76,261

individual contacts with youth and families

287

staff and providers available 24/7 to support youth and families

12

programs available to counties in the Mohawk Valley

7

counties that Kids Oneida has partnered with to keep families together



Dear Member of the Kids Oneida Community,

In the mid 1990s, leaders in Oneida County organized to reduce the unnecessary out-of-home placement of children. Launched in 1997 with four service coordinators, 19 service providers, and one program, our organization has grown to include 120 staff, 32 provider contracts, over 167 contracted service providers and 12 programs. While our home is in Oneida County, we have expanded to provide services in seven counties in the region. Seventeen years after our organization was established, Kids Oneida's vision and commitment to **Keep Families Together** is stronger than ever.

Getting Back to our Roots

With many transitions and great opportunities, 2014 proved to be a critical year for our organization. The most valuable resource of Kids Oneida has always been our dedicated staff and provider network. The unwavering spirit toward a common mission has been the necessary ingredient that has continued to drive the organization forward. Kids Oneida's path to empower families to overcome life's obstacles and achieve the lifestyle they desire for their children is routed in

Wraparound. As an organization, we renewed our commitment to this philosophy by getting back to basics and ensuring all interactions with families and with each other were done with high fidelity to the model.

Expanding our System of Care

We have seen considerable growth over the past few years at Kids Oneida. We are no longer just an intensive children's mental health provider, but now more than ever our organization represents a true system of care. **With 12 different programs serving over 600 families every day**, we now serve children and families prenatally through adulthood. Our footprint consists of very early stage prevention to an intensive home and community network of supports to residential services for our area's most vulnerable population. While the agency's identity continues to evolve, our commitment to children and families remains strong.

Systems Transformation

In New York State, the children's behavioral health field is in the midst of unprecedented change. These monumental shifts will reshape how families engage in services for years to come. With a focus on outcomes, service quality, and cost effectiveness, Kids Oneida is poised to remain ahead of the curve on a number of initiatives.

On behalf of the families, staff, and Board I thank you for taking the time to reflect on Kids Oneida's accomplishments in 2014. As we look forward to 2015, we are optimistic for what is in store and hope you will join us as we further strengthen our commitment to **Empowering Families, Inspiring Communities**.

Steven J. Bulger
CEO/Executive Director

Kids Oneida 2014 Board of Directors

from left to right:

- Rosario Dalia, Board President**
- David Bruno, Vice President**
- Scott Godkin, Esq., Secretary/Treasurer**
- Crystal Bass**
- Gail Rice**
- James Salamy**
- Paul Vitagliano, Jr.**



Return Home Early

\$7.94 million

in net costs avoided since 2008 by returning youth home early from residential placement in Herkimer and Oneida Counties

Healthy Families

4,370

home visits to new parents in Herkimer & Oneida Counties

Kids Herkimer

7 years

since Kids Oneida expanded to launch Kids Herkimer

Annual Per Child Cost Comparison



SPIN

\$349,000

in cost avoidance from outpatient diagnostics provided through the SPIN Program in Oneida County

Intensive Kids Oneida, ACT and Step Down

369

families were helped through Kids Oneida's most intensive services.

2014 COMMUNITY IMPACT

Evelyn's House

16-21

The ages of formerly homeless young mothers building networks of support at Evelyn's House

Parent Partners

15

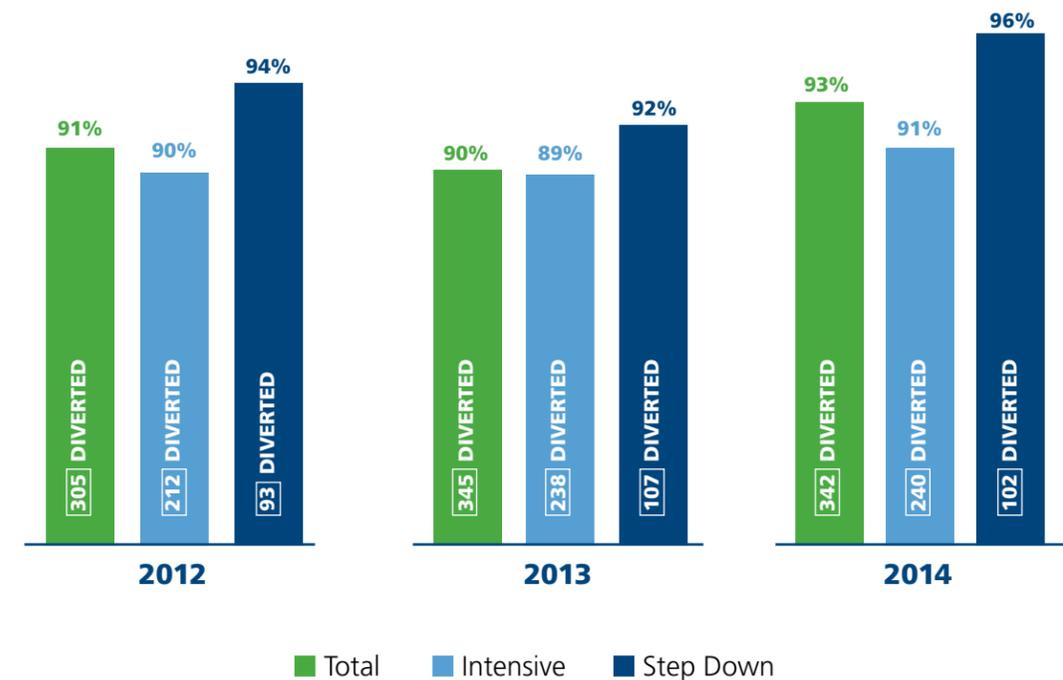
parents, on average, who attend bi-weekly parent support group meetings

Case Planning

98%

of children in out-of-home placement who joined our Case Planning Program successfully transitioned back into the community

Kids Oneida Children Successfully Diverted from Out-of-Home Placement





Jakelyn, Utica

ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (ACT), INTENSIVE KO, & STEP DOWN

An approach with the whole family.

In partnership with youth and families, Kids Oneida provides the highest level of community-based care to youth and families through the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Program. With a goal of keeping youth ages 5 to 21 who are diagnosed with serious emotional disturbances at home and in the community rather than in out-of-home placement, ACT takes a team approach to building family supports. **A high-fidelity wraparound model, ACT embodies the core principles of youth and family voice and choice**, offering diverse services through our 167-member provider network. For youth who do not meet enrollment criteria for ACT, Intensive Kids Oneida provides the same level of services and ensures that all youth in need of our support are able to access it.

As youth and families progress, build their own strengths and resources, and rely less on our services, the Step Down Program allows us to decrease service frequency and intensity. This gradual process of service reduction eases the transition and provides the opportunity to monitor and readjust if additional services are needed again.

A pioneering program in New York State.

Started in 1998 as the Intensive Kids Oneida Program where services were provided through our New York State Office of Mental Health Article 31 Outpatient Clinic, Kids Oneida was **selected in 2012 to lead New York as the first Children's ACT Program**. Through this initiative, we align federal Medicaid funding with county-level resources to maintain the highest level of community-based care for Oneida County youth and families.

A true residential alternative, ACT intervenes to prevent a child's imminent placement in care. In 2014, ACT, Intensive KO and Step Down Program successfully diverted placement in over 93% of the 369 cases served by the programs. Despite the limited resources available to fund services, Kids Oneida continually improves its success in keeping families together with the increasingly at-risk children we serve.

Through Kids Mohawk Valley, we are bringing our innovative, replicable approach to other counties thanks to support from the New York State Department of Health. With almost 20 years of experience providing creative alternatives to residential care, Kids Oneida has developed a blueprint for community-based services proven to produce better outcomes at reduced costs while keeping families together.

CASE PLANNING

Identifying untapped resources.

Our Case Planning Program supports families in making positive changes that will ensure the safety and permanency of their children. This program is available to families at risk of having their children placed in foster care and families with children currently in out-of-home placement. With four central goals—to increase safety, decrease risks, reunite families, and prevent future child welfare issues—this program brings and keeps families together.

After assessing a family's individual strengths, needs, and resources, Case Planning supports them in establishing goals and identifying services and supports. **Using a family-centered approach, Case Planning works in partnership with families to find sustainable solutions.** Through Family Team Conferencing, families bring key resources and natural supports to meetings with formal support providers to create individualized plans that further strengthen family and community connections.

A foundation for lifelong success and self-sufficiency.

Case Planning's therapeutic, supportive approach and its ability to leverage resources within families and communities lead to powerful results. In 2014, 95% of the 360 cases we served in Oneida County had no new substantiated reports of abuse or neglect. For our cases with children in out-of-home placement, 98% were returned home, with a total of 38 children successfully transitioning back into the community, either reuniting with their families or achieving permanency through the support of other community based resources. With the support of Case Planning, children who otherwise may have been sent to foster care are able to remain with their families. Case Planning not only keeps families together, but builds safer, healthier, and more stable families.

A Collaborative, Individualized Approach

Since 2005, **Service Provision for Individual Needs (SPIN)** has supported youth and families in accessing services tailored to their individual needs. Provided at home, in school, or in the community, these services include mentoring, parenting services, family skills groups, drug prevention, respite, therapy, curfew checks, and outpatient diagnostics. In 2014, SPIN worked in partnership with Oneida County Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health, Juvenile and Family Treatment Courts, and Departments of Social Services in Herkimer, Otsego, Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties. **This year, 97% of the 145 youth in SPIN successfully completed their services and our outpatient diagnostics produced a cost avoidance of \$349,000 in Oneida County.**



Jamie, Steve and family, Waterville



KIDS HERKIMER

Seven years strengthening family and community.

Inspired by the success of Kids Oneida, Herkimer County partnered with us to launch Kids Herkimer in 2008. Starting with just four youth in our “step down” level of care, Kids Herkimer proved that it could offer a higher level of community-based care for less cost to the community. Since its founding, Kids Herkimer has experienced sustainable growth, expanding both the number of youth and families reached and the range of services available each year.

A partnership with county agencies and local organizations, **Kids Herkimer works closely with the community to identify pressing needs and enhance or adapt existing Kids Oneida programs to fit the local context.** Today, six programs are offered to support youth and families including Return Home Early, Intensive Preventive, Detention Diversion Program, SPIN, Family Reunification, and Nurturing Parenting Program Groups. At the center of all of these initiatives is collaboration, both across agencies and with families. We help lead multi-disciplinary teams to align the interests and actions of all parties around a single goal: the best possible outcome for youth and families.

Since our founding seven years ago, we have worked with 237 youth and their families with our community-based supports. **This year, 140 young people participated in our 6 programs with impressive results.** 100% of youth in our Detention Diversion Program attended all court appearances, 92% of youth in Family Reunification remained in the community after returning from placement, and Return Home Early produced a cost avoidance of \$349,962 for Herkimer County by bringing youth home from residential placement prior to their scheduled exit date.

A model for the state and nation.

Successfully bringing the work of Kids Oneida to a neighboring county proves that we have portable solutions to keep families together. **The White House Council for Community Solution’s 2013 recognition of Kids Herkimer provides further evidence.** Chaired by First Lady Michelle Obama, this coalition of national leaders identified our cost-savings and reinvestment strategy as a model to help counties better leverage resources to their maximum effect. Services our organization offers, as evident through Kids Herkimer’s success, are replicable and flexible to meet the needs of counties not only in New York State, but across the country.

RETURN HOME EARLY (RHE) & SECOND CHANCE

Demonstrating our impact.

Research has proven that extended stays in juvenile detention produce negative results for youth, families, and communities. With goals of improving youth outcomes, reuniting families, and promoting public safety, **our Return Home Early Project identifies youth in long-term residential care who are ready to transition back into their homes**—and stay there—with the support of community-based resources.

To do this, Return Home Early staff identify Oneida County youth in residential facilities as far away as Rochester, Watertown, and Albany and assess their readiness for early release, monitor treatment progress, and help them prepare for a transition home prior to their court-scheduled exit date. Kids Oneida is a key collaborator in facilitating a young person’s return. **We coordinate re-entry services, working with the family, school, community-based providers, and courts to provide a seamless transition.** Youth are often enrolled in aftercare services such as Kids Oneida’s Intensive Services and families are provided with support to keep youth out of future placements.

Since its founding in 2008, the Return Home Early Program has returned 192 youth to their communities prior to their original release date, providing an avoidance of 16,191 days of care, which equates to a net cost avoidance of \$5.3 million in residential placement costs. Among the 24 youth who returned home early in 2014, only one had to return to placement within the first year back in the community. **Statewide, 63% of youth leaving residential facilities will be rearrested within two years. With Kids Oneida, after one year, only 4% have to return.** This makes for stronger youth, cohesive families, and safer communities.

Leading coalitions and advancing reforms.

New York remains one of only two states in the country to treat 16 and 17 year olds as adults in the justice system. But not for long, as **Governor Cuomo recently announced his commitment to Raise the Age, based on recommendations that Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente contributed to as a member of the Commission on Youth, Public Safety, & Justice.** In addition to transferring 16 and 17-year-old youth into the juvenile justice system, this proposed reform will promote changes system-wide to increase community-based services and eliminate unnecessary placements. When a young person returns to Oneida County, we want to set them up for success.

Selected by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services as one of three counties to pilot intensive re-entry support for youth designated as juvenile delinquents, Kids Oneida launched the Second Chance Re-Entry Program in 2014. With an initial caseload of 10 youth receiving the highest level of community-based support we offer, to date, not one has reoffended.

Leaders from education, child welfare, placement agencies, juvenile courts, probation, and the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services have joined our Second Chance Re-Entry Taskforce, which is **aligning systems to help our county be even better prepared to welcome youth back.** We are creating a clear, navigable process where youth will be supported throughout their transition.



Isaiah, Salisbury Center



*Bridget, Roberto with children
Nayliece and Christopher, Utica*

HEALTHY FAMILIES

There with families from the very start.

Welcoming The Family Nurturing Center of Central New York as a new division of Kids Oneida in 2013 expanded our continuum of care to include prenatal and early childhood support. Healthy Families Programs, available in Herkimer and Oneida Counties, include the Home Visiting Program for new parents and the Supervised Visitation Program, which facilitates professionally supervised visits for families when a child has been removed from the home due to potential child welfare issues.

Using a strengths-based model, the Home Visiting Program provides new and expecting parents with child development and parenting education, connections to medical providers, assessments of infant-child development, and access to community resources. As an entirely voluntary program with weekly home visits, staff and parents develop strong, trusting, and open relationships that facilitate impressive results.

Evidence-based programs built on trust.

Healthy Families New York is a comprehensive, evidence-based, and nationally validated prevention program accredited by Healthy Families America. With active programs in 430 communities across the country, Kids Oneida learns from and contributes to this extensive network of experts and practitioners.

The Healthy Families model has been proven to reduce child abuse and neglect, promote positive parenting skills and parent-child interactions, ensure optimal prenatal care, and promote parental self-sufficiency. In 2015, Herkimer County's Healthy Families Program will be included in an independent evaluation by MDRC, a leading social research organization. Compared to the 36 programs across New York, Herkimer County program has among the best outcomes. MDRC's independent assessment, which is an initiative of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, can further demonstrate the impact and benefits provided by Healthy Families.

EVELYN'S HOUSE

Creating resilient families.

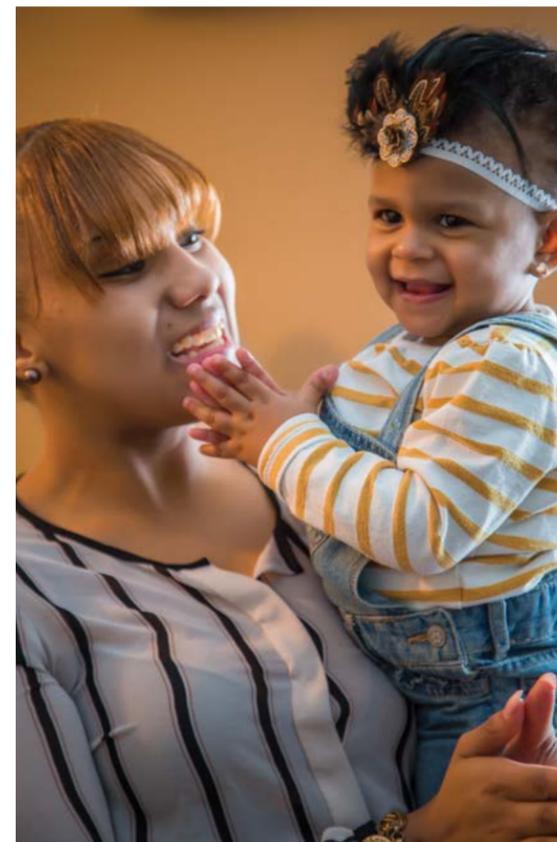
Originally founded by The Family Nurturing Center of Central New York in 2007, Evelyn's House joined Kids Oneida in 2013. Available to homeless women ages 16-21 who are pregnant or parenting, Evelyn's House offers a safe, nurturing home and supportive services for mothers and their children. **From this place of stability and safety, young mothers have the opportunity to chart a new path for themselves and their family.**

Evelyn's House prepares young mothers for the challenge of living independently. They participate in service coordination, on-site instruction, home visiting, and community-based resources. We support young mothers in accessing the resources they need by re-enrolling in school, obtaining a GED, and finding employment. Through individualized planning, our young moms achieve goals for physical and mental health, safe and nurturing parenting practices, positive family interactions, healthy relationships, and household skills.

Building networks of support.

At its core, Evelyn's House is an empowerment program. Our success in transitioning young women and their children into permanent housing is due, in part, to their level of engagement at Evelyn's House. While living here, young women learn by doing: they facilitate family meetings, set and uphold household rules and responsibilities, create family budgets, plan and prepare meals, and learn from one another. **When they transition to independent living, young women leave with both these newfound skills and a strong network of individuals and community-based organizations that they can rely on.**

Evelyn's House can support seven women and their children at a time for up to 18 months. For half of 2014 we were at 100% capacity and had a waiting list of up to four young mothers and their children at times. In all, we supported 16 young women and 17 children at our home, with 11 transitioning to permanent housing, 12 increasing positive parenting skills, two attending GED, two graduating from high school, three attending high school, three accessing employment/participating in job training, and six securing daycare.



Lashawndia and daughter Omarie, Utica

An Ally and Advocate

Parent Partners are trusted advocates for and allies to parents and caretakers to help them navigate the challenges of raising a child with social, emotional, and mental health challenges. **Recognizing the benefit of this peer-to-peer support, Kids Oneida has five Parent Partners on staff** to meet individually or in group settings with parents and caretakers to provide guidance and assistance. Parent Partners bring their own lived experience, and the knowledge they gained from successfully supporting their own child and family, to currently enrolled parents and caretakers.

In addition to providing individualized support, Parent Partners organize trainings, events, and group activities to promote community and shared learning among parents and caretakers. In 2014, the Parent Partners' bi-weekly Parent Support Group had an average of 15 attendees and focused on advocacy, wellness, and understanding the mental health and education systems.



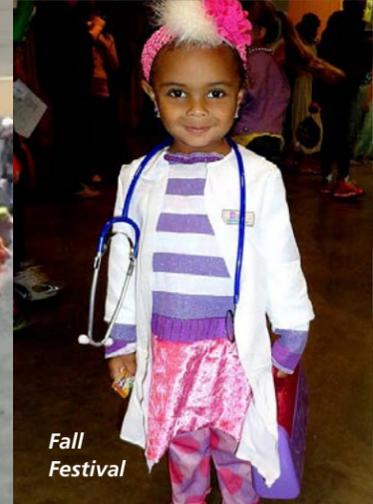
Herkimer Healthy Families Utica Zoo Trip



Staff Wellness Day



ALS Ice Bucket Challenge



Fall Festival



Adopt A Family



Family Picnic



2014 Wraparound Ambassadors



Kickoff for Kids



Nicholas D. Laino Golf Tournament



Bagg's Square Clean Up

2014 EVENTS

Photovoice In their own voices

To provide a platform for youth and parents to share their stories of transformation, Kids Oneida supported its third annual Positive Space 2014: Photovoice event. Ten Kids Oneida families from across the organization's programs documented their journeys through photography and videography, resulting in a professional film that demonstrates the strength and resiliency of the people we work with.



Spoken directly from Kids Oneida clients, this film follows the struggles and successes of youth and families, and the role that Kids Oneida has played in their lives. It demonstrates the power of storytelling, not only for listeners but for those creating their narrative as well. The featured families were recognized at the film's debut at the Stanley Theater on May 30.

At this event, 200 people, including Kids Oneida families, staff, and supporters, gathered to reflect on our organization's impact and the importance of keeping families together.

Kickoff for Kids

The 2014 Kickoff for Kids raffle was by far the most successful KO fundraiser of the year. Kids Oneida supporters gathered to enjoy the football season at monthly Kickoff parties at Tony's AUDelicious where guests enjoyed food, friends, spirits and chances to win early bird prizes. Lucky ticket holder, Barb Arcuri, won this year's grand prize, a once in a lifetime opportunity to have an all-inclusive trip to the Super-bowl, including airfare, accommodations and spending money. Proceeds from this successful raffle will benefit Kids Oneida's transitional programming for teens and young adults.

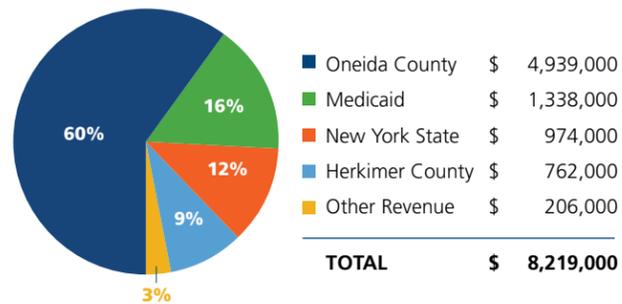
Adopt a Family Program

Kids Oneida's Adopt a Family Campaign had its most successful year, to date, in 2014. Due to the continued support and generosity of the community donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the program was able to provide gifts, clothing and other necessities for over 200 families, with over 500 children, this holiday season. Each year, The Bank of New York Mellon not only supports the program by purchasing gifts for Kids Oneida children, but they provide a day of volunteering on site to wrap and organize gifts for distribution, in addition to donating a portion of their days' salaries to the program's continued efforts!

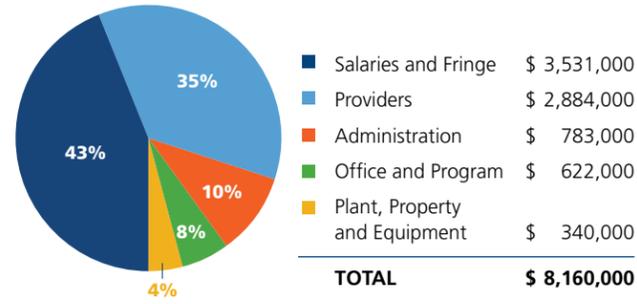
Nicholas D. Laino Golf Tournament

This annual KO fundraiser has been coined by many as the best of its kind in the area. Local golfers gathered this past June at Valley View Golf Course for 18 holes of golfing followed by a fabulous Surf and Turf dinner. The generous golfers provided the necessary funds to help us continue in our mission of Keeping Families Together. Team Joslyn was the winner of the 2104 Tournament!

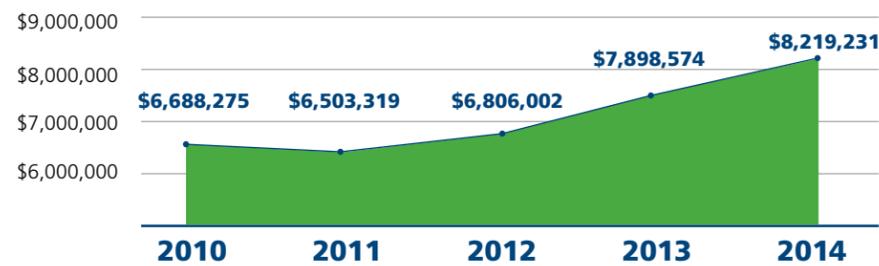
2014 Revenue by Source*



2014 Expenses by Function*



Revenue Trend - 5 Years



2014 Impact of Our People



10 + **110** + **167** = **287** | **1,468**

Administrative Staff Service Providers Total individuals that are helping to keep families together people served by Kids Oneida in 2014

*Amounts rounded to nearest thousands

Mission:
Empowering Children and Families

Vision:
Keeping Families Together

Wraparound Approach

At Kids Oneida, every service, intervention and interaction is based on the philosophy of Wraparound. This foundational approach has been at the center of our organization since it was founded. **A best practice both in New York State and the nation for systems of care and working with youth and families, Kids Oneida has been recognized for its commitment to this philosophy.** We attribute much of our agency's success in developing sustainable solutions with families to our high fidelity wraparound approach. Emphasizing the strengths of families, building natural supports, and maintaining a commitment to community-based services ensures the long-term stability of families.



1. Family-Centered Network of Service Providers

Kids Oneida manages a network of over 167 service providers to ensure that supports tailored to individual needs are available and facilitate youth and family voice and choice. This model ensures high quality service provision, as clients directly assess and select which providers from our network they identify as best meeting their needs.

2. Cross-System Collaboration & Coordination

Our team-based approach aligns the interests and priorities of all relevant stakeholders in the lives of our families and children. For family and youth serving systems, Kids Oneida manages inter-agency teams to facilitate improved effectiveness and efficiency of our work.

3. Commitment to Community-Based Services

With a mission to keep families together, Kids Oneida is committed to helping families and children remain in the community with locally provided supports. Providing alternatives to institutional care leads to better outcomes for families. It also helps counties create cost avoidance and find ways to reinvest funds in cost-effective, community-based strategies.

4. Comprehensive Continuum of Care

The range of services within our agency spans from prenatal care to support for grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Across this continuum, our supports are integrated and seamless, with flexibility by design to allow youth and families to access the type of assistance they need, when they need it.

5. Supporting System Transformation

Kids Oneida partners with local, county, and state entities to support system reforms that increase access to community-based services, decrease reliance on out of home placement, and improve outcomes for youth, families, and the community.

6. Innovative Resource Alignment Strategies

Our innovative blended funding model aligns resources toward a central goal: improved outcomes for youth, families, and the community by investing in community-based supports.

KIDS ONEIDA THROUGH THE YEARS

Launching an innovative solution to better support youth and families.

Evaluating our impact, demonstrating success.

Scaling our model, broadening our reach.



1997
Kids Oneida program is piloted as **one of 12 models across the country** with support from state, county, and local leaders as a new approach to children's mental health service delivery.

2000
Kids Oneida started the **Parent Partner Program**; parents with personal experience to guide and support other parents.

2004
Mt. Sinai Hospital researchers deemed Kids Oneida an **innovative system of community-based services** that has **reduced out-of-home placements** for children in Oneida County.



2008
Kids Oneida honored with the **Family and Community Achievement Award** from **Families Together**, a NY parent-run advocacy organization.



Kids Herkimer founded, the expansion **filling a critical service gap in Herkimer County**; celebrated a 100% success rate against recidivism in the inaugural year!

2011
The **National Building Bridges Initiative** highlighted Kids Oneida as a **model health care organization**, one of the best across the country.

2012
Kids Oneida selected to pilot the **first ACT Waiver Demonstration Project in New York State**, serving as a model for financing intensive community-based services.

The White House Council for Community Solutions recognized Kids Herkimer and Return Home Early Project in a report featuring **models for successful community collaborations**.

Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce distinguished Kids Oneida as the **Non-Profit of the Year** for organizations with 50 plus employees.



1980s - 1996
Recognizing a need to develop **new, collaborative solutions to decrease out-of-home placements and keep families together**, Oneida County Departments of Social Services and Mental Health organized working groups with diverse stakeholders across the county.

1998
Kids Oneida received **New York State Office of Mental Health certification** as an Article 31 Outpatient Clinic with its unique blended funding model for maximum effect.



2002
Northwestern University identified Kids Oneida as an **effective intensive community-based** program that reduced symptoms, lowered risk behaviors, and improved functioning.



The Vera Institute of Justice's report featured Kids Oneida's use of respite care services as **"a promising response to... placements."**



The New York State Office of Mental Health recognized Kids Oneida's successes via the **Excellence in Service Award**.

2005
Kids Oneida selected as a **high performing wraparound program** at the **Florida Mental Health Institute Annual Research Conference**.

2009
Kids Oneida **purchased, renovated, and relocated** to our home at 310 Main Street in Utica, NY, deepening our commitment to community revitalization efforts and strengthening our long term sustainability.



2013
The Family Nurturing Center of Central New York joined Kids Oneida. Evidence-based **Healthy Families Program** and **Evelyn's House**, a home for pregnant and parenting women ages 16-21, are among the new programs.



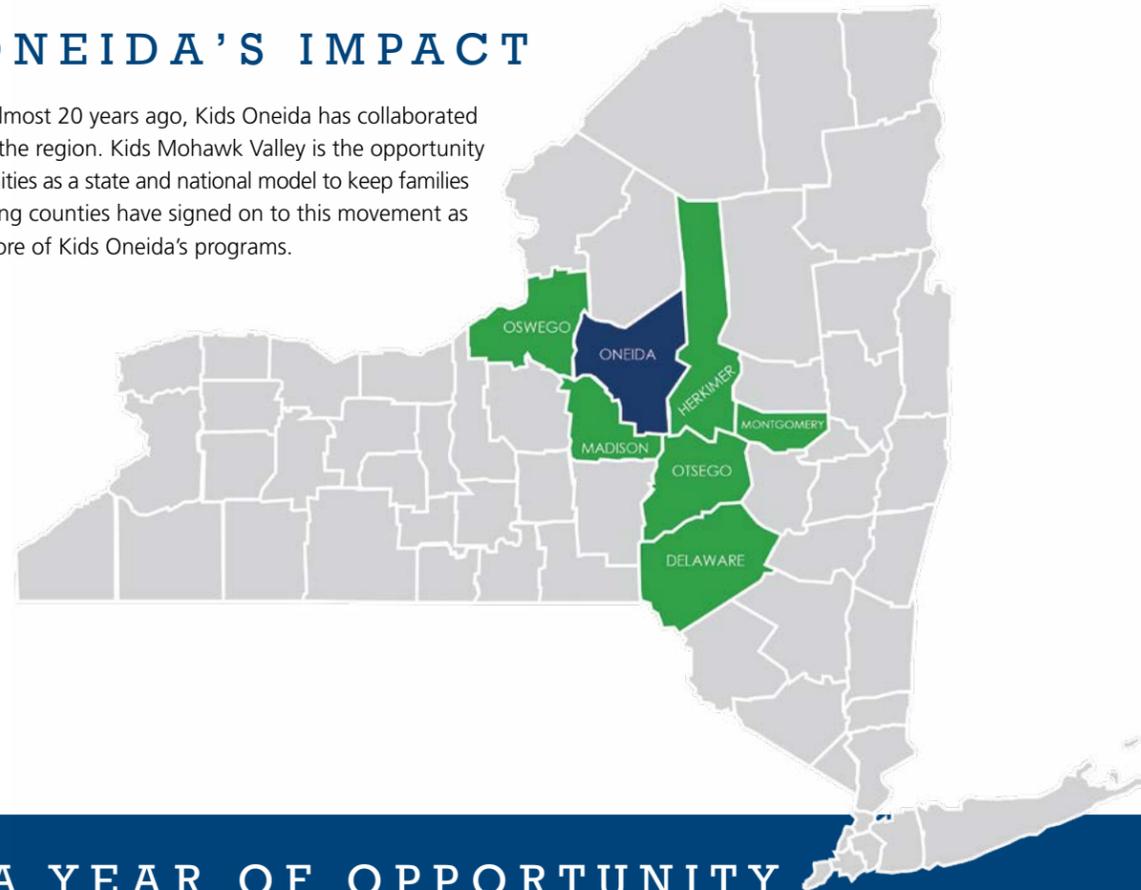
2014
City of Rome Mayor Joe Fusco celebrated Kids Oneida youth and staff with the **Community Excellence Award** in appreciation of our **Supportive Work Program's downtown revitalization efforts**.

Kids Mohawk Valley is launched, expanding services to counties throughout the region with support from the **New York State Department of Health's Balancing Inventive Program Innovation Fund**.

KIDS ONEIDA'S IMPACT

Since our founding almost 20 years ago, Kids Oneida has collaborated with counties across the region. Kids Mohawk Valley is the opportunity to lift up our communities as a state and national model to keep families together. The following counties have signed on to this movement as partners in one or more of Kids Oneida's programs.

- Delaware
- Herkimer
- Madison
- Montgomery
- Oneida
- Otsego
- Oswego



SERVICES OFFERED

Youth and Family-Centered Services Kids Oneida offers a diverse range of supports to ensure that youth and families access services tailored to their unique strengths, needs, and interests.

Therapeutic Services

Individual, Family, and Group Therapy, Evaluation Services, Special Therapy, In Home Assessment & Treatment, Behavioral Management Services, Group and Individual Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Therapy (AODA)

Psychiatric Services

Assessment Outpatient, Medication Trial Outpatient, Psychiatric Reviews and Medication Checks, Consultations with Other Professionals, Nursing Services

Substance Abuse Counseling

Individual AODA Therapy, Group AODA Therapy, Drug Prevention and Education

Crisis Intervention

Crisis Intervention and Treatment, Crisis Assistance, Crisis Respite

Therapeutic Recreation

Recreation, Group Recreation, Individual, Sibling, and Peer Mentoring

Reentry Transitions & Supervision

Reintegration Treatment for Youth Returning from Placement, Intensive, Curfew, and Rise and Shine Supervision

Skill Building

Skill Building Group, Behavior Management Services, Teacher's Aide, Tutoring, Life Coaching, Peer Mentoring, Vocational Skill Building, Supported Work Environments

Family Supports

Parent Partner, Parent Aide, Family Skills Training Group, Discretionary Funds, Transportation

2015: A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

Across New York State and the country, youth and family-serving systems are in transition. Kids Oneida is at the fore of this reform movement, with pioneering models aligned with the changes to come. Here are 6 exciting opportunities coming up for our organization. We hope you will join us in empowering youth and families and inspiring communities across the region and beyond.

1. Kids Mohawk Valley

After building evidence of our success and a model for expansion through our seven years in Herkimer County, we are poised to bring our services to youth and families throughout the Mohawk Valley. We are excited to announce new partnerships with Delaware, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, and Oswego Counties.

2. Support for Schools and Districts

Kids Oneida is bringing resources to schools and districts to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of students. Drawing from on the community school movement, Kids Oneida will help schools become central hubs for service access and can offer dedicated staff—including counselors and therapists—to address student needs. The result: improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities.

3. Behavioral Health Resources for Child Protective Service Units

The need to bridge the gap between behavioral health services and youth and families in the child welfare system was recently highlighted by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Leveraging our expertise in this area, Kids Oneida seeks to partner with counties to bring behavioral health screening, identification, assessment, and services directly to Child Protective Services units.

4. Juvenile Justice Reforms to Raise the Age

Momentum is building to raise the age so that 16 and 17 year olds are no longer treated as adults in New York State's justice system. This reform calls for better coordination and increased community services. Kids Oneida's Return Home Early and Second Chance Reentry programs are aligned with this vision. Centered on collaboration across agencies and intensive support for youth and families, Kids Oneida's interventions are cost-effective strategies that reduce lengths of stay, improve community safety, and keep families together.

5. Children's Behavioral Health System Transformation

Resulting from Medicaid Redesign, the model for child behavioral health services is shifting state-wide. The reforms called for are central to Kids Oneida's mission: increased family voice and choice, enhanced community-based services grounded in wraparound principles, and a focus on reducing unnecessary use of out-of-home placement. Given our expertise in these areas, Kids Oneida is poised to support the roll out of Children's Health Homes and system transformations across the region.

6. Nurturing Parenting Program® Expansion

An evidence-based practice, our agency currently supports Nurturing Parenting Programs in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. This nationally recognized family-centered and trauma-informed model fosters positive parenting skills and prevents abuse and neglect. To better serve Herkimer County families, we plan to expand our current Nurturing Parenting Program offerings to include both groups and a home visiting program.

“My mom did the best she could, but it got too much for her at times. I feel like Kids Oneida saved my life.”

- Brendan

“In the very beginning, we were at our bottom. Relationship wise, family wise, we were destroyed. Our caseworker gave us a voice. She showed us the way to start and helped us build the strength we needed to make those choices for ourselves for the rest of our lives. Today,

in my life, I would have never thought I'd be where I am now. And that just speaks for itself.”

- Roberto

“Once a young person is home, we know they will be able to stay there for the long haul because they and their family have the support they need.”

- Steve, Residential Outreach Manager

“The Return Home Early Project helped me to get my life back and get on track.

I was able to get back into school, get a job, and will be starting college next week.”

- Tony

“Kids Herkimer provides huge returns on investment. Our goal is to empower families to be able to support themselves so they no longer have to rely on services.”

- Brandi, Program Manager

“Thanks to Healthy Families, I have my self-esteem and self-worth back. I am a better and more positive mother to

my children. This program has taught me patience, confidence, and strength and because of those things, I'm gainfully employed and happy.”

- Catherine

“The relationship is the most important part of what we do. We build a trusting relationship and that's why they let us back in the door.”

- Donna, Program Manager



Keeping families together.

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