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Cornell University Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

- 2015 -FACTS AT A CLANCE

DIRECT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:	126,000
INDIRECT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:	3,800,000
NUMBER OF PROJECTS:	39
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS:	5,638
PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE SPENT ON PROGRAMMING:	89%
MULTIPLICATIONS OF COUNTY DOLLARS:	4.9 TIMES

Dear Citizens of Onondaga County,

Your Cornell Cooperative Extension Association is doing well!

We have a very pragmatic mission: to bring researched based knowledge to Onondaga County and apply it to everyday life.

Our four main program areas are Agriculture and the food system, Environment, 4H Youth Development and Nutrition/Health.

CCE programing has a tremendous social, economic, community and individual impact in Onondaga County, that's why we do what we do.

Here are some of those impacts:

- · Connecting people to healthier foods.
- · Protecting farmland that sustains us all.
- · Keeping our drinking water clean.
- · Giving all youth a chance to explore possibilities in life and plan for a future.
- · Teaching folks how to grow their own food and how to preserve food.
- · Developing new farmers.
- · Developing new types of agriculture.
- · Decreasing the impacts of invasive species.
- · Supporting economic development and maintenance.
- · Teaching more efficient ways to use energy.



2015 Annual Meeting keynote speaker & 4-H Member Madeline Mahoney celebrating Youth Development with her aunt, Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney, and CCE Onondaga Executive Director David Skeval.



One new challenge in 2015 was finding ways to decrease exposure to deer ticks that carry Lyme disease. This is a complex challenge dealing with the ecology of ticks, deer and community planning. We developed a community based model for dealing with ticks and Lyme disease and provided outreach to thousands of people on how to decrease the risk of exposure. Onondaga County demonstrated support for these efforts by increasing our funding.

The best way for the public to keep track of our diverse programing is to subscribe to our monthly Executive Email. The email will provide a list of upcoming workshops and events as well as informative articles. We encourage you to enroll in the Association by participating in a workshop or event. Visit us on line or call to get connected.

Here's to another great year of bettering the lives and communities of Onondaga County!

David Skeval
Executive Director

EDUCATOR STAFF Agriculture & 4-H Development Kristina Ferrare, ext. 231 Forestry/Ag/4-H Team Coordinator

Erin Hull*
Aq Program Educator

Melanie Palmer, ext. 228 Ag Business Specialist

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Roseanne Jones, ext. 253
Cheryl Neal, ext. 237
Katie Oja, ext. 254

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Derek Conant, ext. 227 Natural Resources Educator

Justin Kwiatkowski, ext. 250 Forestry Educator, Save the Rain

> Jessi Lyons, ext. 233 Environmental Educator

Jessica Maxwell, ext. 229 Urban Agriculture Program Educator

> Roy Widrig, ext. 232 Water Quality Educator

Kim Zhang Environmental Educator

Sue Parker* Vanessa Gravenstine* Erica Tauzer*

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JIRECTORY

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Diana Lamson, ext. 222 Finance Manager

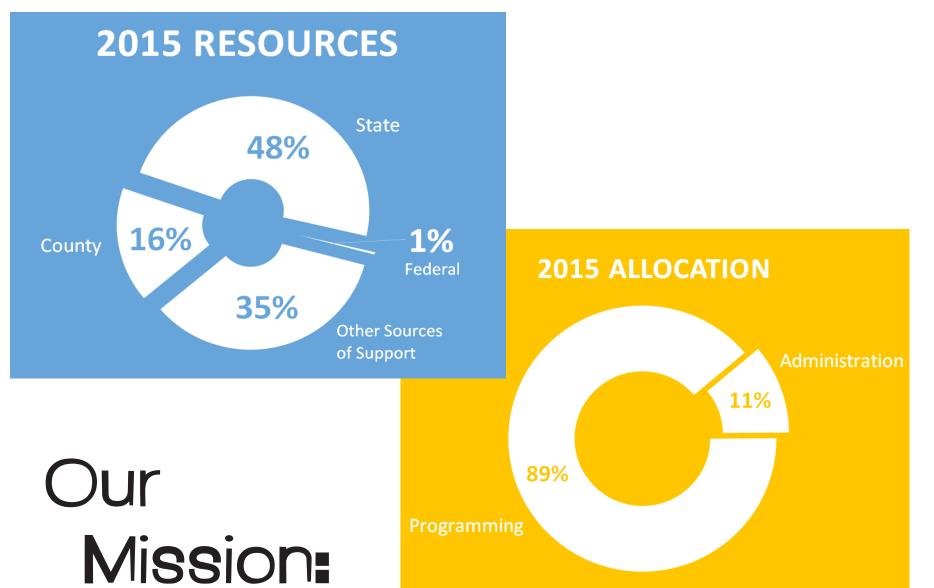
Micheal Mathews-Rogers, ext. 234
Account Representative

Michelle Bouchard, ext. 226 Program Accountant

STAFF JOINING IN 2016: Karen Bishop, Master Gardener Coordinator, ext. 236

*Denotes persons not continuing on staff in 2016

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CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PUTS KNOWLEDGE TO WORK IN PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC VITALITY, ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING. WE BRING LOCAL EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH BASED SOLUTIONS TOGETHER, HELPING NEW YORK STATE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES THRIVE IN OUR RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.

Eat Smart New York Programs are **RELEVANT**, **RESEARCH-BASED** and **RESPONSIVE** to the challenges our residents face to lead **HEALTHY**, **ACTIVE LIFESTYLES** – while stretching limited time and resources.

We bring our workshops, events, and cooking programs to schools, community centers, churches and worksites across Onondaga County.

During 2015, with enhanced funding from the USDA, our county program **DOUBLED** in size. We assumed leadership for the Eat Smart New York Comprehensive Nutrition and Obesity Prevention Program for 8 CCE Associations across CNY and the Southern Tier. We reached over 44,000 residents through food demonstrations, interactive workshops, cooking classes, Farmer's Markets and health fairs with a staff of 18 educators **at over 300 locations**.

Kids chopping, cooking, and eating leafy green and dark orange vegetables a total of ten or more different vegetables for dinner- and asking for second portions - how is this possible?

Parents hardly recognize their own children as they willingly help prepare and wash the dishes during our **Cooking Together for Family Meals** workshop series. Cooking Together is a family-based cooking program that brings parents and youth together around the table, builds cooking skills, and encourages

family communication – all key elements to this childhood obesity prevention program.

Our LOW-COST, ONE-DISH RECIPES feature vegetables that are in short supply in the typical American home. Our partners - Syracuse City Parks and Recreation and the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion provided food and even language translation support with programs offered at Seymour Dual Language Academy during 2015. Ten families with 34 family members participated during 2015.

This program [CATCH] is great!

The kids really learned a lot and asked way more questions than they typically do.

Now we talk about nutrition – even on days that ESNY educators don't come!

-TEACHER IN SYRACUSE SCHOOL DISTRICT



"All kids should be learning how to do what we do in these classes ...read labels and recipes, make our own healthy food, and work together as a team.

Schools should require all kids to take these classes (CATCH Kids).

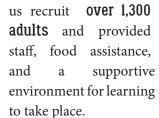
I know a lot of adults who don't know as much about cooking as I do now!"

- 11 YR. OLD YOUTH AT SEALS COMMUNITY CENTER AT KIRK PARK Our Syracuse City School District and City Parks Partners extended their almost 20 year partnership with over 3,000 youth actively engaged in CCE youth Nutrition and Healthy lifestyles programs. Helping youth to engage in team work, use math and reading skills, gain cooking skills and sound decision making skills are key components of our series education Empowering youth to make healthful food and physical activity decisions FOR LIFE is the KEY!

Fun- educational- interactive- Our Re-think Your Drink activity engaged over 5,000 youth and families to THINK LONG and

HARD about how all that sugar from sodas and sweetened drinks adds up! From weight gain now to increased chronic risk of disease over time. Along with our Snackin' Healthy challenge - we help families to TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR HEALTH!

Our Eat Smart New York nutrition education programs reach and teach a broad range of culturally, racially and ethnically diverse county residents in Workforce Development and Job Training Programs to make healthy food choices for themselves and their families in a challenging food environment. Our partnerships with JOBSplus!, SUNY'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER, AND BOCES helped





Cooking Matters at the Store tours engaged 300 families with skills to make healthy and affordable food choices to shop smarter for produce, beans, grains and low-fat dairy through interactive grocery aisle tours and table events at Nojaim, Price Chopper, TOPS, and Nice 'n Easy grocery stores across the county. Shoppers were provided a \$10 gift card to bring home healthful items following each tour - thanks to our partners with the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion and Share our Strength. Nutrition Educators also provided tasty food samples and information to access local food assistance programs as part of this partnership campaign.

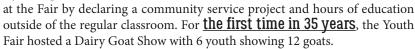
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Over 1,800 youth were reached by 4-H Youth Development Programs in Onondaga County. Through the club program, in-school enrichment, after-school and special interest programs, 4-H has continued to offer opportunities for youth to learn and grow. Programming around nutrition, environmental stewardship, Ag Literacy Week, Arbor Day celebrations, animal science, public speaking skills and community service bring the core components of STEM, Citizenship and Health Lifestyles to youth of all ages in Onondaga County.

4-H CLUBS

Youth organized in 4-H Community Clubs increased from 89 in 2014 to 115 in 2015. Our Club program opened the accepted age range to Cloverbuds (5 to 7 yr. olds) and now matches the State's age policy of children from 5 to 19 years of age. Clubs included **Robotics**, **STEM**, **Dairy Goat**, **Horse** and **Cloverbuds**.

The 4-H Horse Program has the largest percentage of youth and volunteers within the Club structure. The four day County Level Horse Show at the 2015 Youth Fair registered 54 youth and rider combinations. Each of these youth qualified to ride



25 youth participated in formal County Level judging of their public speaking skills. 5 youth chose to compete at Regional competitions, and one was invited to Cornell for State competition. Over 30 youth competed at 4-H Horse Educational regional and State events throughout the spring and summer. 12 youth rode in competitions at the NYS Fair, 3 worked as Junior Superintendents. 2 youth went onto the National 4-H Horse competitions at Kentucky in November. For the 4th year, the Robotics Club mentored and competed at the NYS Fair. 4 youth showed their dairy goats at the State Fair.

CITIZEN U

CCE Onondaga expanded its youth programming in the City of Syracuse with the CITIZEN U Program. CITIZEN U stands for CITIZEN YOU and CITIZEN University. CITIZEN U uses Cornell Cooperative Extensions 4-H Signature Program, Youth Community Action, to promote **civic engagement** and **workforce development** among underrepresented youth in two high need communities. CITIZEN U is a metaphor for creating a university environment in which teens are empowered to become community change agents, and graduate from high school prepared for college, careers, and citizenship.

CCE Onondaga is partnering with the Mercy Works to offer a weekly CITIZEN U to 8 high school youth who are working with an educator on a civic engagement curriculum. Through a series of guided but self-directed lessons and projects, teen leaders are encouraged to grow as leaders in their community.





I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING,

MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY,

MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE,

AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING,

FOR MY CLUB,

MY COMMUNITY,

MY COUNTRY,

AND MY world.

CCE Onondaga Agriculture programs assist agriculture producers within the county. We field many questions and concerns from producers, as well as help brainstorm new ideas to help **keep their farming venture business sustainable**.



FARM TOURS:

In 2015, we assisted two farms with school tours. Every year, Tully Elementary School has an "Agriculture Awareness Day". CCE Onondaga was present and helped with various stations that 75 children visited. A new tour this year was at Venture Farm in Tully, NY where 80 Solvay High School students toured various stations to learn about various careers in agriculture.

BEGINNING FARMER WORKSHOPS & FARMLAND PROTECTION:

CCE Onondaga held several "Beginning Farmer" workshops that focus on what it takes to **start a new agriculture venture**. Topics covered included chickens, pork, sheep and goats as well as beef. This is proving to be a very popular workshop series and continues to grow each year.

Agriculture Coalition's "Live Birthing Center" at the NYS Fair. This event is touted as one of the top 10 attractions at the NYS Fair, with over 250,000 visitors

CCE Onondaga is working with Onondaga County, and NYS Agriculture and Markets to **help preserve farmland** in the county. The Farmland Preservation workshop brought 17 farm families to the New York State Fairgrounds to learn about Conservation Easements and the Farmland Protection Implementation

Grant Program, and how to prepare to submit a proposal. Throughout the year, CCE Educators worked with 8 producers and farmland owners on components of their application.

AG LITERACY WEEK:

annually.

In 2015, CCE Onondaga teamed up with the kids in the Tully FFA program for Agriculture Literacy Week. Every year this program grows, and last year was no exception. **Over 35** 2nd grade classes in Onondaga County were read to. The topic for 2015 was Fiber (wool) production. The program is a wonderful opportunity to highlight and teach about the many different agriculture products that are produced in New York State.

TRACTOR SAFETY:

New for 2015, CCE Onondaga teamed up with Tully FFA for Youth Tractor Safety. 7 youth took the class and 3 were certified. The other 4 students did not meet the age requirements needed to become certified. This year they will meet the requirement, and will most likely become certified as well!







2015 was a year of growth for our Urban Agriculture program, featuring several **new projects and partnerships** in addition to continuing key longstanding programs.

CCE educators continued our collaboration with City Parks to provide support and educational programming for a youth garden club at Kirk Park. We expanded the spring program from 6 to 8 sessions and included a field trip to the nearby City Greenhouses. A total of 22 youth participated in spring and summer sessions, and 5 Master Gardener Volunteers assisted with program development and delivery. We also partnered with the City Greenhouses to grow out several varieties of blight resistant tomato plants, which were then distributed freely to community gardens. Tomato seed was provided by Cornell Garden-Based Learning and 30 seedlings were planted at 4 community gardens in Syracuse.

We're thrilled to announce that we kicked off **our first Urban 4-H** youth group focused on horticulture! Youth began meeting in November with new 4H volunteer leaders Twiggy Billue and Kiva Vandergeest. For their first community service project, they assisted with gleaning at the Southwest Community Learning Farm (SWCLF), and harvesting fresh greens and sweet potatoes to provide to a neighborhood Thanksgiving food distribution effort.

A new partnership with the Brady Faith Center was initiated to provide technical support for their plans to develop a 5 acre urban farm. CCE continued to partner with Jubilee Homes to provide technical support and educational programming at the SWCLF. We assisted with the development of planting plans, variety selection, and provided handson instruction to the Urban Delights summer youth program on: plant identification, management of pests, disease and weeds, when and how to harvest, preserve produce, and much more. In the fall, we hosted 3 workshops at the SWCLF in conjunction with **Syracuse's first Food Justice Symposium**. Topics included small-scale season extension, fall garden clean up, and fruit tree planting.





With over 40 active Master Gardeners, volunteering over 3000 hours in 2015, Master Gardeners shared their gardening knowledge with the public in numerous ways. They answered a wide variety of gardening questions from the horticulture hotline, at several regional markets, and from over 5000 visitors to our booth at the State Fair. Master Gardeners researched and gave gardening presentations to community groups on such topics as starting a vegetable garden and tick management, and provided a training on composting at the Food Justice Symposium.

Volunteers installed a heritage vegetable garden at the zoo, where all of the produce was used to feed to the animals. The elephants and alpacas enjoyed the cucumbers and there were green beans for the rabbits. Master Gardeners mentored youth through educational programs at Kirk Park that included workshops on seed planting, pollinators, and created a presentation on gardening with preschoolers for a daycare center. They also consulted at a senior facility that was **creating a bird friendly garden**.



In addition to working with the public, Master Gardeners continued to increase their own gardening knowledge by attending professional seminars like the Ithaca Native Plant Symposium and lectures given by experts in their fields, such as Professor Robin Kimmerer.





WATER QUALITY

With support from the City of Syracuse Water Department, CCE Onondaga offered watershed protection education to

residents and municipal officials within the Skaneateles Lake Watershed. Workshops included flood resiliency for communities, septic tank maintenance, aquatic invasive species management, woodlot water quality management and roadside drainage and stormwater.

Watershed education programs reached 317 Onondaga County youth and adults.



YOUTH ON THE FLY

Youth on the Fly uses fly fishing to teach youth about water quality monitoring, stream ecology, chemistry, math, pollution, conserving local streams, history, visual arts, and outdoor recreation.

The goal is to get youth outdoors to develop a more complete understanding and appreciation of the environment, their community, themselves, and outdoor recreation.

This year 22 youth and 9 adults developed the skills necessary to fly fish, tie flies, learned stream ecology, entomology, fish identification, and how to conduct a water quality assessment.



STREAM STUDIES PROGRAM "PROJECT WATERSHED"

Project Watershed is a water quality education and community outreach program that engages Onondaga County high schools, middle schools, and teachers in water quality monitoring, stream ecology, pollution, and conserving local streams.

The program has been developed to meet NYS STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education requirements.

- 440 youth & 40 adults
- 8 water bodies were monitored
- 12 sampling events
- 10 schools participated

SKANEATELES/ INVASIVE SPECIES

In May, CCE Onondaga, the City of Syracuse Water Department and Onondaga County Soil & Water planted 100 hemlock trees in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed to establish insectaries to combat hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). These insectaries will rear predators of HWA to control the population of the pest in the watershed and save our precious hemlock forests.



HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

Over 24 volunteers spread out at Green Lakes State Park and Bahar Nature Preserve to scout for HWA infestations. Early detection and rapid response is critical to **preserving our hemlock resources**. In partnership with Cornell University, the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation Service, Duckett's Timber & Tree Care, volunteers and three private property owners - 100 **hemlock trees** were planted across 4 sites in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed. The trees will be used to rear biological controls that will help to combat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

TICKS

In response to the rapid increase in Lyme disease and ticks in Central New York, a tick prevention program was introduced through a NYS Integrated Pest Management grant. Education focused on **tick ID**, **life cycle**, **prevention** in landscapes and recreating, and **tick borne-illnesses**. Approximately 5500 NYS Fair visitors read the tick banner or handouts about tick ID and exposure reduction. 55 people attended educational presentations, and 48 people were trained to give presentations through a three hour Tick Train-the-Trainer event.





EMERALD ASH BORER

The EAB taskforce expanded to create the Central New York EAB taskforce. Efforts were made to include neighboring counties; Madison, Oswego, Cayuga, Oneida, and Cortland. Special thanks to ESF professor, Paul Hirsch, who facilitated discussions on identifying principles and pathways for moving forward with taskforce efforts in the coming year.

CCE Onondaga presented to towns, educating municipal leaders and residents on how to identify ash trees and EAB management options. In addition, we aided town of Salina in an ash tree inventory. With OCSWCD, staff helped to deploy and monitor purple prism traps to help detect new infestations across the County. In efforts to **CONSERVE OUR ASh Trees**, CCE Onondaga partnered with the Mid-Atlantic Seed Bank to train over 20 residents and collect ash seeds.

COMMUNITREE STEWARDS

These volunteers participated in young tree care and maintenance, right tree right place, tree identification and bare root tree planting workshops. Throughout the season, Tree Stewards provided hands-on training on 15 tree pruning projects, **improving the form and structure of 530 young urban trees**. These Stewards along with 26 Stewards Alumni participated as crew leaders throughout the year, assisting with community plantings and other urban forestry activities, sharing their knowledge with the community.

COMMUNITY TREE BUY

Six Onondaga County Towns and Villages purchased 131 bare root trees at a lower cost because of the Community Tree Buy program. These trees were unloaded at the DPW location in the Village of Fayetteville. Without this program, communities would pay a higher price per tree instead of taking advantage of a group purchase. CommuniTree Stewards assisted the Village of East Syracuse DPW and volunteers in their tree planting efforts.

MAPLE

Steve Childs, Cornell Maple Specialist, delivered a beginning maple program to 12 beginning producers. Participants learned the basics of maple syrup production with an eye to utilizing new technologies such as reverse osmosis and vacuum. Participants visited a local sugar bush to see a tubing system laid out and discuss the advantages of 3/16" tubing and natural vacuum. Finally, a local sugar maker and equipment manufacturer invited the group to see how reverse osmosis and evaporator systems are made. Several participants expect to try sugar making for the first time this spring.

LEGACY PLANNING / LANDUSE PLANNING (WATERSHEDHEALTH AND PROTECTION)

19 people participated in a land conservation options workshop for farm and forest landowners. Participants received the basics on land conservation topics, such as what is a conservation easement and what does it mean to conserve land in perpetuity. Several agencies and organizations presented information on their programs designed to assist landowners in conserving their land. Presenters included Finger Lakes Land Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service, New York Agricultural Land Trust, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency.









SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD REFORESTATION PROGRAM

Cornell Cooperative Extension and Onondaga Earth Corps worked to get trees planted in the Southwest neighborhood. This neighborhood is not currently served by the Save the Rain Tree Planting Program but was funded through the NYS DEC Urban Forestry grants program to provide 120 trees to this neighborhood. CCE Onondaga and OEC collaborated with 4 neighborhood organizations in the area to plant multiple trees and involve community residents in volunteer tree planting events.

In 2015, CCE Onondaga and OEC staff spoke with over 80 residents, knocked on more than 210 doors, and inventoried more than 320 sites for planting trees. CCE Onondaga and OEC hosted three volunteer events during the month of October. With the helping hands of 16 volunteers, 34 trees were planted at three community spaces over the span of three weekends within a few hours. Seventy trees have been planted during the fall 2015 planting season, leaving a remaining 50 needing to be fulfilled in 2016.

SAVE THE RAIN HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015

University Neighborhood Tree planting Event resulted in 120 volunteers planting **85 trees in 2 hours** on November 7th, 2015. The volunteer participants included Syracuse University and SUNY ESF students and professors, Ed Smith Families, Neighborhood Residents, Master Gardener Volunteers, Communi-Tree Steward volunteers and Certified Arborists from National Grid.

CCE along with Onondaga Earth Corps conducted a total of 32 hours of door to door outreach, knocked on 506 doors, and spoke to 169 residents to obtain 196 site approvals.



2015 VOLUNTEER PLANTING EVENTS

In 2015 the STR team held 12 community plantings and events with 366 volunteers. These events resulted in 732 volunteer hours! Our annual Arbor Day event was held at Weeks Elementary School with twenty 4th grade students who learned about the importance of trees as green infrastructure, their beneficial impacts on our watershed, and concluded with the planting of 24 trees on school property. We also trained 12 crew leaders how to lead a group of volunteers during the University Neighborhood Event.



FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORT

Alden Street Foundation

Alliance for Communities Transforming

Brady Faith Center

Brewerton Food Pantry

City of Syracuse Water Department

Cornell University

Cornell Garden Based Learning

Finger Lakes Land Trust

Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional

Invasive Species Management

Food Bank of Central New York

Helping Hands Urban Farm

Huntington Family Center

iHeartMedia

Jubilee Homes

Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion at Syracuse University

Liberty Resources

Lockheed Martin Corporation

Meals on Wheels

National Grid

New York State Ag & Markets

New York State DEC

New York State Fair

New York State Office of Parks. Recreation & Historic Preservation

NYSERDA

Nojaim Brothers Supermarket

Onondaga County

Onondaga County Community

Development

Onondaga Community College

Onondaga County Farm Bureau

Onondaga County Public Library Syst.

Onondaga County SOCPA

Onondaga County SWCD

Onondaga Earth Corps

Onondaga County WEP

P.E.A.C.E. Inc./Head Start

Penn State University

Pricechopper

Share Our Strength

SU Canary Projecy

SUNY ESF

SUNY Upstate Hospital

Syracuse City School District

Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation.

& Youth Programs

Svracuse Housing Authority

Syracuse Grows

Syracuse University

Syracuse University Canary Project

Tops Market

Toward Sustainability Foundation THANK YOU!

Tractor Supply Company

Tully FFA Chapter

US Green Building Counsil

Upstate Golisano

USDA-NIFA

WIC

WSYR TV

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