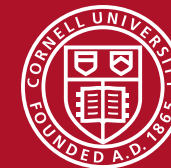


Cornell Cooperative Extension
Onondaga County



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

6505 COLLAMER ROAD, EAST SYRACUSE, NY 13057
315-424-9485
WWW.CCEONONDAGA.ORG

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

Executive Committee:

President: Timothy Ryan

Vice President: Catie Blackler

Treasurer: Tim Virgil

Secretary: Odean Dyer

Cornell Representative: Renee Mooneyhan

Onondaga Legislative Members:

Debra Cody &
Charles Garland

Board Members:

Tony Clark
Derrick Dorsey
Robert Durr
Josh Forward
Travis Glazier
Rob Hughes
John Neuburger
Martha Ryan
Jim Smith

2025 Members Elect:

Isabelle Harris
John Russo

ADMINISTRATION

DAVID SKEVAL
Executive Director

HILLARY CHARTRON-BARTHOLOMEW
Director of Human Resources,
Information Technology, Communications,
& Operations

ERICA BUTCHKO
Finance Manager

MICHELLE BOUCHARD
Program Accountant

MITCHELL BRINK
Facilities Coordinator

JEAN KESSNER
Communications Assistant

NUTRITION & HEALTH

KATHLEEN BUMP
SNAP-Ed Team Leader

ANITA BONO
SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

MALLORY BURNHAM
SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

ELIZABETH SEELEY
SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator

OUR STAFF

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

JANET OPPEDISANO
Team Leader

NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY, & ENVIRONMENT

THOMAS CROSS
Team Leader

KATHLEEN BURNS COPELETTI
Master Gardener
Program Coordinator

HAROLD NUGENT
Natural Resources Educator

CAMILLE MARCOTTE
Water & Ecology Educator

LEANNA NUGENT
Community Forestry & Natural Resources
Educator

4-H YOUTH & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

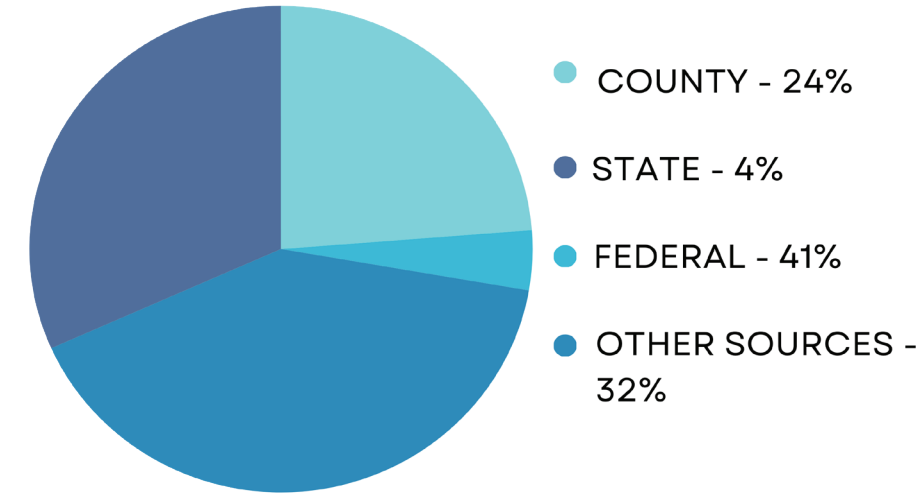
SCOTT HUDSON
Team Leader

ROBIN BARTHOLOMEW
4-H Club Coordinator

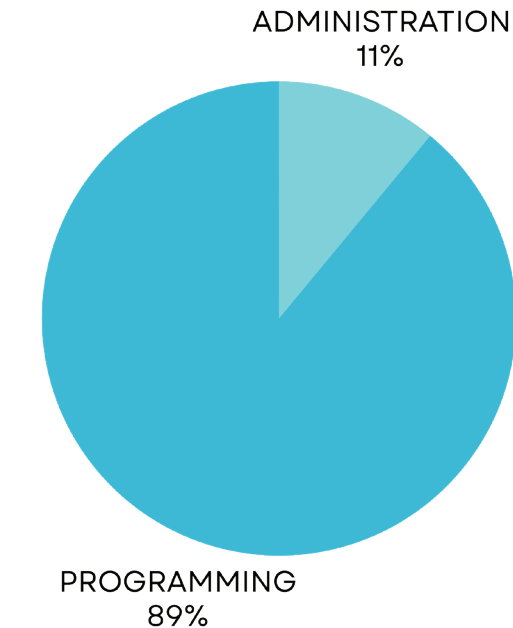
DAVID SCHOLL*
4-H Youth Educator

*Denotes staff not continuing in 2025

2024 RESOURCES



FINANCES



2024 ALLOCATION

A YEARS REVIEW

A Year of Resilience, Growth, and Impact:

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024, we are proud to share that this year has been a transformative one for our organization and the community we serve in Onondaga County. In the face of the challenges facing our communities, we have seen remarkable growth, both in the educational programs we provide and the number of individuals Onondaga County we support.

This year, we expanded our reach, impacting thousands of lives through innovative programs tailored to meet the evolving needs of our community. Our team's ability to swiftly adapt to change has enabled us to address emerging challenges—whether through crisis response, new partnerships, or creative solutions to longstanding issues.

We remain deeply committed to making Onondaga County a better place to live, work, and thrive. Your continued support has been vital, and together, we look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Thank you for being part of our journey!

With sincere gratitude,

David Skeval

David Skeval, Executive Director

YOUTH & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



2024 Program Highlights:

Onondaga 4-H County Programs

Youth who are enrolled in Onondaga 4-H have access to a wide variety of programming throughout the year. These are in addition to the activities and projects they take on within their own 4-H clubs. These county programs are designed with high levels of enjoyment and engagement in mind, but are also intentional in how youth develop the skills and habits that will lead to lifelong success. Cooking demonstrations, archery, animals sciences, and public presentations are some of the more popular programs offered in Onondaga County.

Onondaga 4-H Archery

Many youth in Onondaga County engage in 4-H shooting sports through our archery program. The 4-H shooting sports program provides opportunities for youth to gain valuable skills, practice leadership, and build relationships with non-parent adults. Some youth have come into 4-H looking for an activity that builds their confidence and allows them to find success, and archery seems to check those boxes. There's nothing quite like the smile on a young person's face when they hit the bullseye for the first time!



Youth Fair

The Youth Fair is an excellent opportunity for youth to share their hard work and knowledge with others. Throughout the Youth Fair, youth participate in anything from showing a cow in the dairy show, to guiding their dog through the obedience course, to presenting their 4-H project to judges. The skills being developed throughout the fair, such as public speaking, communication, and perseverance, are impossible to ignore. The future is very bright for these young people who step outside of their comfort zone and share their passions with those around them.

4-H Summer Camp

Onondaga 4-H offered Summer Camp programming at three different County Parks. Pratts Falls, Highland Forest, and Oneida Shores County Parks all offered unique experiences for youth over the Summer. The program consisted of programming around outdoor recreation and environmental education, making for a well-rounded opportunity for youth in our area. At 4-H Summer Camps, youth are encouraged to meet new friends, try new activities, and learn about new topics, in an environment that is safe and supportive.



2024 Program Highlights:

In celebration of Dairy Month, Onondaga County 5th Graders had a field trip to Barbland Dairy in Pompey, New York on June 11, 2024. Students and teachers from Fabius-Pompey, Marcellus, Mckinley-Brighton, & Roberts schools learned about dairy farming, dairy cow milk production, sustainable farming practices, and even pet calves!

Many children and families in Onondaga County have never been on a farm and do not understand where their food comes from. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County and Barbland Dairy, with the generous support of the Onondaga County Agriculture Council and volunteers from the agricultural community, offered a farm-based learning experience to **280 STUDENTS**. Students toured Barbland Dairy to learn about milk production and all the foods they eat that are made with milk.

Barbland Dairy Farm milks over 2,300 cows and grows over 4,800 acres in crops to feed the cows. Three families own and manage Barbland. Multiple family farms allow farms to grow. "Growth of a farm is what works to make a farm sustainable for the next generation," says Bret Bossard, part owner at Barbland.

In addition to a wagon ride tour around the Dairy Farm, students walked through tents with educational presentations on the topics of nutrient cycling, farm equipment, life stages of dairy cows, milking parlor activities, and nutrition from milk. Experienced dairy farm volunteers answered student's questions all day. Highlights of the lunch menu included donations of Chobani yogurt and chocolate milk from Trinity Valley. Thank you to all of our volunteers and funding partners including Onondaga County Agriculture Council.

Another significant highlight in 2024 is CCE Onondaga's phenomenal support for Agritourism in Onondaga County. With 53 Agritourism awards granted to Onondaga County farms in the Spring, CCE held two formal networking and information sessions (May 31 & Oct 8). As well as offering one-on-one planning and proposal review for these agritourism operations, connecting farmers to folks in their communities for help through partnering resource organizations like CCE Statewide Agritourism Program, Town Codes, & Small Business Development.



NATURAL RESOURCES

2024 Program Highlight: Community Forestry Network – Helping Build Strong Community Forests

Here in New York, we face many challenges to our urban and community forests, particularly in our underserved communities, including the threat of exotic pests, continued construction and development, increasingly severe weather storms and mostly an incomplete public understanding of trees – what they need to survive and the benefits they provide. The threats are continuing to get worse and we can feel the effects of climate change on our urban forest. The benefits of the urban forest and its ability to combat the effects of climate change are not equitably distributed throughout our state. Expanding the urban, suburban and village forest resources in the state through tree planting, tree maintenance and engaging residents in that process will help our local municipalities achieve healthy, productive urban forests that will serve all citizens well into the future.

Through the NYS DEC Round 15 Urban and Community Forestry Grant, CCE Onondaga created a Community Forestry Network (CFN), which is a well-established network of local municipalities who are interested in expanding or beginning their community forestry programs through the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Program. This program requires a municipality to meet four basic criteria: 1) Establish a Tree Board or Tree Committee; 2) Maintain a tree budget of at least \$2 per capita; 3) Celebrate Arbor Day every year; 4) Write and pass a tree ordinance.

Since the start of the CFN, CCE Onondaga has assisted 2 communities in receiving the Tree City USA designation and 5 communities in maintaining their designation. This year, we added one more to our list – The Village of Solvay. Solvay has been a historically underserved community, with over 10% of the population living under the poverty line. Despite the Village's challenges, we were able to form a small group of passionate residents that make up the Solvay Tree Committee, dedicate a budget of \$2 per capita to their trees, celebrate multiple Arbor Day events with massive tree planting efforts and pass a detailed tree ordinance. This designation will not only benefit the 6,000 residents living in the community, but it also shows a massive shift in the Village's priorities by proving that the Village is invested in and committed to their urban forest. CCE Onondaga is proud to have been a part of that effort and looks forward to continuing to help the other municipalities in our county receive the same designation and demonstrate their dedication to their trees.





NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Unruffled: Parents gaining confidence in the kitchen = kids eating healthier

A group of parents of young children brought together by the Department of Social Services (DSS) 2Gen program to learn nutritional benefits and skills for preparing and accessing healthy foods. By gaining confidence in the kitchen and opening up about their food behavior challenges, they became empowered to break through some of their old patterns, and more assertive in facing food ‘battles’ with their kids, embracing a healthier lifestyle for the whole family.

The young families of 2Gen were a perfect fit for piloting the American Heart Association’s Healthy for Life (HFL) curriculum. The HFL lesson “experiences” draw in a hands-on approach to learning cooking skills, meal planning, creating healthful and kid-friendly snacks, food budgeting and wellness. 2Gen (2nd generation) helps bridge support for those no longer qualifying for temporary assistance until they can manage fully on their own. The program focuses on certain areas of family wellbeing including health, saving money, childcare and skills for employment. Our nutrition education workshops were welcomed to help address the struggles this group faces on how to feed their families in a healthful way.

The CCE Onondaga SNAP Ed team met with the Commissioner of Onondaga County DSS office who referred us to the coordinator of the 2Gen program. The logistics of finding a location over five weeks in the summer which could meet participant needs had to be worked out. The YMCA in Baldwinsville was chosen that included childcare for members. 2Gen program provided the YMCA memberships and transportation. Five-lessons of nutrition workshops each with a different topic and recipe that could be prepared by the group.

Accomplishments and Impacts: Participants filled out a Pre-survey questionnaire at the first workshop and identical Post-survey at the end. These data showed that 60% or more improved their confidence level in the ability to prepare healthy meals at home, and substitute healthier cooking methods. 60% reported they are more likely to plan meals they’re shopping for and check the nutrition facts label. 80% said they are eating more servings of either vegetables, fruits or whole grains. The following is a testimonial from a participant who told us she didn’t eat any vegetables to trying green peppers the first class and now eats 3 servings/day: “I’m going to try making these recipes we’ve made during class at home. I’ve always let my husband cook for us, but he works at night and so we eat fast food a lot of the time. I know that isn’t the healthiest for us and I feel like I can make these kinds of healthy meals now and I can show my daughter how too.”

Collaborators: Onondaga County Department of Social Services, 2 Gen program coordinators and case workers, Northwest Family YMCA

Special funding sources: USDA SNAP Education Grant, American Heart Association Healthy for Life pilot program grant awarded to CCE Onondaga for delivery of HFL educational experiences and to provide workshop participants incentives for purchase of healthy foods.



FUNDERS, PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS, & DONORS

HOW DO WE DO IT ALL?

ACCESS CNY	CLEANTEC SERVICES	E.C. HAINES	JOANN FABRIC STORES	MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SYRACUSE	ONONDAGA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION	SUBURBAN GARDEN CLUB	2 GEN, Healthy For Life 2024 Class MGV Orientation 2024 Class MGV Training 2024 Club Officers Training 2024 CommuniTree Steward Graduation Ceremony 2024 NYS Fair 2024 Public Presentations 2024 Spring Fling 2024 Vet Science Series 2024 Winter Greenhouse & Growers School 2024-2025 Farmland Protection Information Session 3-Day Master Food Preservation Certificate Course 4-H Archery Program 4-H Cooking Series 4-H Nature Camp - Highland Forest County Park 4-H Nature Camp - Oneida Shores County Park 4-H Nature Camp - Pratts Falls County Park 4-H Produced in NY Competition 4-H Produced in NY Competition 4-H Summer Camps 4-H Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser Night Access CNY, Eat Well Play Hard - Champions Access CNY, Healthy For Life Achievement Day AG Awareness Day! Onondaga County Multiple Agricultural Agencies & Community Partners. Agricultural Literacy Week: March 18-22 Agritourism in Onondaga County - Best Practices Ahepa Senior Apts, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Ahepa Senior Apts, Healthy For Life Animal Crackers Apple pruning workshop Archery Clinic Backyard Habitat Native Plants Baldwinsville, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Baltimore Woods Earth Day - Adults Baltimore Woods Earth Day - Youth Beauchamp Library, Healthy For Life Beneficial Insects	Blocks In Bloom Botany 101 Business Planning 101 Calf Rodeo Camillus Learn As You Grow, CATCH Kids Club Camillus Tree Planting CCE Demonstration Garden Tour Central New York - Agritourism Bus Trip and Half Day Conference Cherry Rd Tree Planting Chestnut Hill Middle School, CATCH Kids Club Climate Change Effects on Home Gardening C-NS High School, CATCH Kids Club CommuniTree Stewards Asian Jumping Worms CommuniTree Stewards Right Tree Right Place CommuniTree Stewards Tree Biology class CommuniTree Stewards Tree Disorders & Diagnosis CommuniTree Stewards Tree Fungus & Decay CommuniTree Stewards Urban Forestry 101 Class Community Day at Youth Fair Community Forestry Network Program Wrap Up Companion Planting Composting Conservation Field Days Container Gardening: Master Gardener Presentation Cooking Series County East Family Resource, Healthy For Life Crew Leader Training CTS Graduation Ceremony CTS Orientation 2025 CTS Tree ID CTS Tree Risk Assessment CTS Tree Risk Assessment Cut Flower Farming for Profit Cut Flowers David Clark Learning Center, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops David Clark Learning Center, Healthy For Life Delaware Elementary School, CATCH Kids Club Demonstration Garden Committee Determination Center, CATCH Kids Club	District Dairy Bowl District Presentations Dog Obedience Dr. King Elementary School, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Dr. King Elementary School, Healthy For Life Eastside Family Resource Center, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Eastside Family Resource Center, Healthy For Life Eastwood Garden Series Edible Flowers Workshop Edible Flowers: Tuesdays in the Garden Series End of Season Planting Meeting at OEC Environmental Field Days Fairmount Community Library, CATCH Kids Club Fairmount Gardens Apts., Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Fairmount Gardens Apts., Healthy For Life Family Fun Day Farmland Protection Information Session Food Preservation Workshop - Water Bath Canning with Apples! Garden Tool Maintenance Gardening 101 Goat Clinic Grant Writing for Farmers Green Lakes Environmental Days Greenhouse Committee Growing Tomatoes: Seed to Table Harmful Algal Blooms: From Research to Mitigation: Sharing the latest updates for Skaneateles Lake Herb 101 Herbs: Tuesdays in the Garden Series Highland Ave Learn As You Grow, CATCH Kids Club Hillside, Healthy For Life Home Composting Huntington Family Centers, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Indoor Plants INFICON Arbor Day Informational Meeting for MGV program Interfaith Works, Eat Healthy Be	Active Community Workshops Invasive Plants Kirk Park Tree Pruning Kirk Park, CATCH Kids Club Lafayette Apple Festival Landscaping for Water Quality - Making Way for Meadows Landscaping for Water Quality and iMapInvasives Training for Master Gardener Volunteer Training Lasagna Gardening Lawns and Landscapes for Protecting the Lake Leadership Group-Cicero Leadership Group-Clary Junior High LeMoyné Elementary School, CATCH Kids Club Lewis Park Tree Planting Lifeskills Class-Fayetteville Liverpool Elementary, CATCH Kids Club Liverpool Head Start, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Liverpool Head Start, Healthy For Life Liverpool Middle School Discussion Liverpool Middle School Tree Planting Liverpool Middle School, CATCH Kids Club Liverpool Tree Planting Longbranch Elementary School, CATCH Kids Club Lyncourt Union Free School District, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Lyncourt Union Free School District, Serving Up MyPlate Grades 1-2 Lysander Tree Pruning Magnarelli Center at McChesney Park, CATCH Kids Club Magnarelli Center at McChesney Park, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Magnarelli Center at McChesney Park, Healthy For Life Manlius Fish Stock Manlius Tree Committee Meeting Maple Sap Production for Fun & Profit Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale Master Gardeners at Regional Market McCarthy @ BEARD, CATCH	Kids Club Meachem Elementary, CATCH Kids Club Meeting with Town of Geddes Monthly Plant CNY Meeting Morgan Road Elementary School, CATCH Kids Club Mundy Library, CATCH Kids Club National Grid SLA Earth Week: Panel Discussion on Sustainable Gardens, Invasive Species, and Stormwater Resiliency at Home Native Plants Natural Weed Pest Control Near Westside Tree Planting North Syracuse Learn As You Grow, CATCH Kids Club Northeast Community Center, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops NYUFC Board Meeting OEC Open House Officer Training ON Farm Fest 2024 Onondaga County 4-H Youth Fair Onondaga County Parks 4-H Summer Camp at Highland Forest Onondaga County Parks 4-H Summer Camp at Oneida Shores Onondaga County Parks 4-H Summer Camp at Pratts Falls OnTech Charter Leadership Open House Peoples AME Zion Church, Rethink Your Drink Peoples AME Zion Church, Serving Up MyPlate Grades 5-6 Pine Grove Middle School, CATCH Kids Club Plant Sale Committee PlantCNY Education day Pompey Earth Day Poultry Pollurum Testing and Clinic Produced In New York Presentations Rabbit Clinic Rain Gardens: One Solution to Stormwater Pollution and Pollinator Protection Rain Gardens: Soaking up Storm Water to Protect Skaneateles Lake - A Case Study at the NYS Fair Raised Bed Gardening Regional Horse Bowl Registration Open for Spring Youth Leadership	Relief Region 7 Committee Meeting Relief Region 7 Tree Planting & Pruning RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Self Empowerment), Drexel University - Middle & High School Nutrition, 863215 RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Self Empowerment), Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops, 829018 RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Self Empowerment), Healthy For Life RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Self Empowerment), Serving Up MyPlate Grades 5-6 Ross Towers, Healthy For Life, 799674 Roxboro Road Elementary School, CATCH Kids Club Seed 2 Supper Seed Starting 101 Site Planning for Farmland Protection Skaneateles Watershed Municipal Meetings Solvay Arbor Day Celebration Solvay Learn As You Grow, CATCH Kids Club Solvay Senior Apts, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Solvay Senior Apts, Healthy For Life Solvay Tree Committee Meetings Solvay Tree Plantings Soule Road Middle, CATCH Kids Club Southside PEACE Family Resource Center, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Southside PEACE Family Resource Center, Healthy For Life Sportsmens Days Spring Fling St. Patricks Day Parade St. Vincent De Paul Child Care Center, CATCH Kids Club Stabilizing Steep Slopes to Stop Soil Erosion in Skaneateles Lake: Highlighting a Project by the Central New York Land Trust Stabilizing Steep Slopes to Stop Soil Erosion in Skaneateles Lake: Highlighting a Project by the Central New York Land Trust Starting Seeds 101 State Dairy Bowl	State Fair State Horse Bowl STEM event at Brighton Academy Strawberry Freezer Jam Workshop Summer PEACE, Healthy For Life Syracuse Academy of Science Highschool, CATCH Kids Club Syracuse Academy of Science Tree Planting Syracuse Latin School, CATCH Kids Club Temple Adath Yeshurun Scavenger Hunt The Q Center, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Tick Focus Group Tomatoes!: Tuesdays in the Garden Series Toomey Abbott Towers, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Toomey Residential, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Tour of Camillus Park Town of Camillus Tree Planting Tractor Safety Courses Tully Junior Senior High school, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Urban Delights, Drexel University - Middle & High School Nutrition Urban Green: Container Gardening Van Keuren Sq Fruit Tree Planting Van Keuren Square, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Van Keuren Square, Healthy For Life Vermicomposting Vernon Downs Track Tour Vet Science Series Village of Solvay Arbor Day Celebration Wellness Break: Ticks! At FMF&E WEP Fest Westside Learning Center, Eat Healthy Be Active Community Workshops Wildflowers Wilson Park, CATCH Classroom Winter Sowing Writing Your Farm Business Plan Youth Fair
------------	-------------------	-------------	---------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

- STAY CONNECTED -



LIKE & FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK --
@CCE ONONDAGA
@ONONDAGA4H
@OCMGP



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM --
@CCE_ONONDAGA



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER --
@CCEONONDAGA



SUBSCRIBE ON YOUTUBE --
@CCE ONONDAGA



**SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMING
BY MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY!**

Besides a monetary donation, did you know you can make a meaningful contribution in many other ways? Gifts of **land, equipment,** and other items can be a great way to make your impact! Including a charitable gift in your estate plan is also a simple, tax-friendly way to make a positive impact on the causes, charities or community that matter most to you. Planned giving does not require a large income or vast estate. It requires only a thoughtful intention to **make a difference** by designating CCE Onondaga in your will or estate plan.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Onondaga County
Helping Put Knowledge to Work