“The Kids Oneida Program has changed my family... I honestly do not know if my family would be together today if not for Kids Oneida being brought into our lives. We have become a stronger family, I have confidence again, my children have socialization and skills training, we all have guidance and help. All from people who care.”
Kids Oneida is a non-profit organization that has been keeping families together since 1997. The agency strives to prevent, divert, and shorten restrictive out-of-home placement of youth by providing an innovative network of home and community-based wraparound services designed for youth with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. With a mission to empower children and families and a vision of keeping families together, our agency supports youth, parents, siblings, and caregivers through 12 programs in seven counties across New York State.

In a strategic plan developed nearly four years ago, it has been a priority of this organization to expand our reach and share our model with children and families who would benefit from a non-traditional approach to care. Today, that vision continues to unfold as our staff and providers deliver critical family-centered services to more families than we have ever served. In 2013, Kids Oneida served at total of 2,226 families across all programs. Most significantly, as an agency we have kept nearly 97% of families together diverting children from unnecessary out-of-home placements.

Kids Oneida operates a total of 12 programs primarily in Oneida and Herkimer Counties:
1. Intensive KO/ACT
2. Step Down
3. Return Home Early
4. Service Provisions for Individualized Needs (SPIN)
5. Case Planning
6. Kids Herkimer
7. Healthy Families of Oneida County
8. Healthy Families of Herkimer County
9. Family Resolutions and Supervised Visitation
10. The Nurturing Parenting Programs®
11. Kniffin Center-Family Place
12. Evelyn’s House for Young Mothers and Babies

In March 2013, Kids Oneida welcomed the Family Nurturing Center – with its vision of building nurturing families – as a new division of our agency. The Family Nurturing Center of CNY was established in 1988 and operated independently until the 2012 passing of its founder, Donna LaTour-Elefante. It was the first entity launched in affiliation with the original Family Nurturing Center that is headed by Dr. Stephen Bavolek in North Carolina. Now, as a division of Kids Oneida, the local Family Nurturing Center continues functioning as one of the country’s 18 organizations that are licensed to provide Training and Consulting in the Nurturing Parenting Programs®. All of the center’s services are designed on the philosophy of nurturing and a commitment to the safety and well-being of children.

As we look forward to 2014, Kids Oneida is committed to continuing our vision of keeping families together. As opportunities present themselves in an ever-changing human services landscape, our agency is poised to take the next step in sharing our unique and one-of-a-kind wraparound approach to empower children and families in New York State.

2,226
Families were Served by 12 Kids Oneida Programs in 2013

97%
Nearly 97% Success Rate in Keeping Families Together
(less than 4% of families served had children that needed out of home placement)

2013 Board of Directors
Rosario Dalia, Board President
Nicholas F. Laino, Board Vice President
Scott Godkin, Board Secretary/Treasurer
Crystal Bass
Steven J. Brown

David F. Bruno
Gail Rice
James Salamy
Paul Vitagliano, Jr.
Traditional KO:
ACT / INTENSIVE KO & THE STEP DOWN PROGRAM

Kids Oneida believes that the foundation for a child’s success is helping them to build strong ties to family and community resources. Keeping families together and helping caretakers find their voice is crucial to a child’s treatment and well-being. Kids Oneida works to empower children and families to build on their strengths in order to achieve their goals.

Kids Oneida was founded on, and bases every interaction with families on, the principles of Wraparound. Wraparound is a method of organizing the least restrictive interventions to meet a child’s needs while building on their existing strengths. Wraparound is a team-based approach and values the input of every member of a child’s team. Family teams include natural supports that the family determines can assist in their treatment.

In January 2012, Kids Oneida transitioned from being an Article 31 Clinic to the first ever New York State Child and Adolescent Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team. With the ACT designation in 2012 and renewal in 2013, KO continues to be the sole state-wide program granted a waiver and therefore allowed to braid Medicaid funding and local county funding to provide a sustainable level of services to Oneida County children. With this unique waiver granted to KO through ACT, Oneida County children are eligible for the highest level of community care and Oneida County’s burden is supported by federal funding. ACT provides and/or arranges for services, treatment, and support to families with children at risk for out-of-home placement for whom traditionally structured services have not met their needs. This level of service provides care to youth with serious emotional disturbances who have difficulty functioning in at least one area of life. The team works to preserve the integrity of the family and prevent unnecessary out-of-home placements, which deprive a child from being part of their community and are not viable long-term solutions for care. Effective interventions are ensured by implementing a creative and collaborative partnership with the family, treatment providers, community-based services and other natural supports.

The Intensive Kids Oneida Program and the Kids Oneida Step Down Program are based on the same philosophy and principles as ACT, but service intensity decreases over time. As children and families progress through their treatment at Kids Oneida they begin to build new strengths and achieve the goals they set. The team works with the family to identify an appropriate discharge plan and begins working toward that plan by decreasing services in the areas that the child and family have demonstrated continued success. Once the child and family have achieved discharge goals, the family is transitioned to community services that they wish to engage with. Services provided by Kids Oneida are child-centered and family-focused. Every family has their own unique strengths, goals, and priorities in treatment. Kids Oneida assists families in cultivating community supports and providing opportunities for children to recognize their talents and strengths by providing a variety of services through a provider network. Services are tailored to meet the family’s needs and to ensure a good fit with all members of the team. Kids Oneida also recognizes the important role that siblings and caregivers play in a child’s treatment. The provider network has a number of services directed at supporting and assisting family members of the identified client. On average, children and families have 25 contacts with team members per month in the home, school, and community.

Through ACT, Intensive KO and Step Down Program, Kids Oneida works in collaboration with numerous community organizations in order to ensure that all family needs are being met. Collaboration and coordination are key components to ensuring that the complex service needs of every family member are being addressed.
2013 Kids Oneida Revenue

Cases Served by Legislative District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>LEGISLATOR</th>
<th>INTENSIVE KIDS ONEIDA</th>
<th>STEP DOWN</th>
<th>SPIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Townsend</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Regner</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Brennan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Leach</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Waterman</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Porter</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tallerino</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Flisnick</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sacco</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Koenig</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Clancy</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Goodman</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gordon</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>D’Onofrio</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mandryck</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Travisani</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Fiorini</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Welsh</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Speciale</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Convertino</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Paparella</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Caruso</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Furgol</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Revenue for 2013 was $7.6 Million

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

Total Number of Client Contacts

39,083
ACT / Intensive KO

7,270
Step Down Program

ACT / Intensive KO and the Step Down Program made 46,353 contacts with kids and families in 2013
SPIN Program

Service Provision for Individual Needs (SPIN) is a collaborative approach that provides individualized and flexible services to families. Since 2005, SPIN providers have worked with children and their families in the home, school, and community to help them build on their strengths, meet their goals, and lead healthy and successful lives. SPIN activities are effective in preventing or reducing behaviors that may lead to children being placed out of their homes.

To achieve measurable positive outcomes, referring payers (schools, clinics, municipalities) are able to access treatment options including behavior management, mentoring, parenting services, family skills group, skill building, drug prevention/education, respite, family and individual therapy, curfew checks, and outpatient diagnostics.

In 2013, SPIN served 176 children and families. Cases were closed for 143 of the children, nearly all of whom worked cooperatively with providers to meet their goals and to remain living at home. This success level is significant given that most of the children lived in single parent homes or with relatives, and in situations associated with inadequate resources and high stress levels.

This year, SPIN provided outpatient diagnostics for 35 children referred by Family Court and all of them were able to remain in their homes with community-based services in place. Oneida County realized a large cost savings by utilizing outpatient diagnostics and produced highly favorable outcomes for the families.

96%

Approximately 96% of children remained home with their families while receiving SPIN services.

This year, SPIN worked diligently to determine every child’s most appropriate level of care and treatment intervention on an individual basis. SPIN upholds the Wrap Around philosophy of Kids Oneida by empowering individuals and respecting every family’s beliefs, values, and preferences – their voice and their choice.

SPIN is utilized by Oneida County’s Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health, Juvenile and Family Treatment Courts, and DSS programs in Saint Lawrence, Oswego, and Steuben Counties.

In 2013 SPIN enrolled 176 children (99 male, 77 female). The average age was 13 – a critical stage for helping children make healthier decisions. The average length of service was four months. More than half of the children (54%) lived in single parent homes and 16% resided with relatives, likely associated with inadequate resources and high stress levels.

SPIN discharged 143 cases in 2013. Of these, 92% had successfully worked with the providers to meet goals and remain in their homes. Only 8% were placed outside of the home due to substance abuse and the need for more intense treatment. The remaining 33 children continued services into 2014. The average cost of SPIN services per family is $212/month, which is far less than up to $400/day for a child placed outside the home.

SPIN received 35 referrals for outpatient diagnostics of children – 21 males and 14 females – who were referred by Family Court due to “Person in Need of Supervision” or “Juvenile Delinquency” petitions. Four of the children required different treatments and were not served. Following completion of outpatient diagnostics, 31 children were able to remain in their homes with community-based services in place. By utilizing the outpatient option in these cases, Oneida County realized a savings of $651,000, as 14 outpatient diagnostics could be completed for the cost that the facilities charge for one 45-day inpatient assessment.
Success Begins at Home
THE RETURN HOME EARLY PROJECT

The Return Home Early (RHE) Program conducts independent assessments to identify those children in long term residential care who are ready to transition back into their homes and stay there, with the support of community-based resources. Typically serving 80 Oneida County youth at any time, the RHE coordinator travels locally and as far away as Rochester, Watertown, Auburn, and Albany.

Each child receives a quarterly private visit which, along with staff conferences, provides updated information about the child’s treatment progress, readiness for discharge, and the family’s capacity to receive the child home prior to the court-scheduled exit date. Nearing the return time, the coordinator also meets with school and court personnel to advocate for continued services through Kids Oneida and other appropriate treatment programs.

“"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.”

Goals and outcomes are achieved through strong collaborations and are documented by using a Child Readiness Assessment tool and an outcome-based Client Tracker software program.

In 2013, RHE assessed 150 Oneida County children staying in residential treatment centers and group homes. The program helped facilitate the earlier returns of 26 children to their homes, and the transition of eight children to less restrictive levels of care. Early discharges eliminated 1,971 days of care at a cost reduction of $521,430 this year. In all, the program facilitated early returns of 168 children, for a $4.9 million savings in placement costs from 2008–13.

The real accomplishment of the RHE Program is its success at avoiding recidivism and keeping families together. Since 2008, at least 90% of the children that returned early from placement have stayed in their homes with the help of supportive services.

2013 Return Home Early Program

1,971
Days of Care Saved

$521K
Cost Avoidance

$4.9M
Savings in Placement Costs From 2008 - 2013
The Case Planning Program supports families to make positive changes that will ensure the safety and permanency of their children. Under contract with Oneida County DSS, Case Planning involves assessing the need for services, providing or arranging for services, and coordinating and evaluating the provision of those services needed to prevent the disruption of a family or to help a child return home sooner from foster care.

Case Planning helps families utilize services to meet the most critical goals for their children: increasing safety, decreasing risks, reuniting permanently, and avoiding further child welfare issues. Steps taken become effective when parents accept responsibility and are empowered to maintain a safe, healthy living environment for their children. Successful family reunification and family preservation are achieved through flexible and creative programming, individualized planning, strong collaborations, supportive staff responses, and family focused resources provided with respect for all parents and all children.

Focusing on family strengths and using the Kids Oneida philosophy of wraparound, the Case Planner develops a relationship with each family and helps to reinforce its structures, values and beliefs in order to create support systems that will keep the children living safely at home. Family Team Conferencing is employed to develop individualized plans that strengthen family and community connections and create natural supports.

In 2013, Case Planning served 306 families, saw 735 children, and exceeded the targets for its projected outcomes. Collaboration within Kids Oneida included serving families concurrently enrolled in Healthy Families Home Visiting, Supervised Visitation, or SPIN Services.

96%
Success Rate in Keeping Families Together
Only 28 out of the 735 children provided Case Planning services needed to be placed outside of the home

PARENT PARTNERS PEER SUPPORT
A Parent Partner is an individual that has raised a child with emotional or behavioral issues and has been intensively trained to provide advocacy and support for families currently using Kids Oneida services. Collaborating with our multidisciplinary teams, the Parent Partners draw on their own experiences to support families to set goals, identify resources and track progress. A Parent Partner encourages the family’s full participation in services. Enrollment is voluntary and most of the relationships continue until Kids Oneida services are completed.

In 2013, a total 45 families participated. A Parent Partner met with each family every month, at least once individually and once within a team meeting. Through home visits and occasional outings, they utilized their knowledge of schools, service providers and community resources to help empower families. They role modeled effective parenting skills. They guided parents to understand the mandates and perspectives of the team members, while discovering their own strengths and abilities to increase self efficacy in their children.

Support Group meetings, held twice a month, brought 20 parents and caregivers together to share stories, enjoy lunches, and gain helpful information from guest speakers, often focusing on family wellness and ways parents can take care of themselves while meeting the needs of their children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Case Planning Served</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>306 Families</td>
<td>735 Children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Being helped by case planning brought my family closer together. My kids are doing better in school and my whole family is more focused.”
“The Nurturing Program put me on the right path to have a fresh start in life with my kids.”
NURTURING PARENTING PROGRAMS®
Introduced to New York State in 1988 by Donna LaTour-Elefante, the Nurturing Parenting Programs® are evidence-based, nationally-validated curricula designed to build nurturing parenting skills and reduce abusive and neglectful child-rearing practices.

In 2013, the Family Nurturing Center completed the final phase of a BOCES Safe Schools/Healthy Students collaboration, which sponsored trainings for 40 Head Start staff to become apprentice facilitators. In all, 48 parents and 68 preschool children participated in Nurturing Programs where they developed skills in empathy, self-awareness, empowerment, discipline with dignity, appropriate family roles, and age-appropriate expectations of children.

FAMILY RESOLUTIONS AND SUPERVISED VISITATION
Families were able to address potential child welfare issues through the Family Resolutions Program, whose primary component is supervised visitation for separated families. Children and non-custodial parents have reunited and protected their relationships through Family Nurturing Center visitation services since 1998. The program employs trained monitors to provide neutral observations, reports, and testimony.

Without supervised visitation, children could spend months without seeing a parent while awaiting final court results. This program allowed children to spend more time with their parents, in safe circumstances, sharing activities and strengthening their bonds. At the same time, the parents gained deeper understanding of the need to provide emotional, physical, and financial support for their growing children.

In 2013, supervised visitation was complemented by family group conferences, consultations, and parenting education, funded by a state grant for at-risk, lower-income individuals. Parents were supported to improve their skills in communicating, problem solving, interacting with their children, and advocating for their families. In all, 282 families participated in one or more services: 281 children and 163 parents were reunited and enjoyed good quality time in a total of 1,520 supervised visits; and 121 families benefited from family group conferences, consultations, and parenting education.

Oneida County Judges describe visitation providers as the “eyes and ears of the court” capable of reducing the time and expenses needed to assess the appropriateness of unsupervised parenting time. The program also assists parents to make agreements regarding their children, which decreases the need for costly court appearances. At all times, the highest priority is ensuring the best interests and safety of every child, while helping to build nurturing family relationships that will sustain them through all of life’s transitions.

“You were the rock in the stream of desperation...thank you for all you’ve done for me and my children.”
Healthy Families New York is a comprehensive, evidence-based prevention program accredited by Healthy Families America. The program focuses on the safety of children by supporting families in 36 high risk communities of New York State – including Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

Using a strength-based home visiting model for expecting parents and new families, Healthy Families Programs are devoted to educating families on parenting and child development, connecting families with medical providers, assessing infant-child development, and helping families to access community resources. Participants with issues of domestic violence, mental health, or substance abuse are referred for appropriate services.

The Healthy Families model is successful in: reducing child abuse and neglect; promoting positive parenting skills and parent-child interactions; ensuring optimal prenatal care, child health and development; decreasing low birth weights; and enhancing parental self-sufficiency.

Healthy Families New York Programs are cost effective in reducing child abuse and preventing costly foster care placements, reducing low birth weights by 50% (which saves Medicaid dollars), and reducing Temporary Assistance use which is no longer needed by 50% of families after Healthy Families program participation.

Healthy Families of Oneida County

HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

Healthy Families has provided home visiting services throughout Oneida County since 2001. Originally a partnership of the Health Department and the Family Nurturing Center, the program is now contracted by the state directly to Kids Oneida.

Oneida County is notable for ethnic and cultural diversity, but also for high rates of child poverty and adolescent childbearing. However, the community is rich in resources that produce valuable collaborations among preventive services, including the Healthy Families Program.

In 2013, while providing home visits for 132 families, the program reported that nearly all the target children either met their developmental milestones or were referred for Early Intervention evaluations and services when they presented delays. Furthermore, all of the target children were assessed for toxic lead exposure, which is a critical achievement given the lead poisoning risks identified in Oneida County.

The program strengthened its partnership with the WIC Program by arranging for Healthy Families Support Workers to be trained as breastfeeding peer counselors, and by expanding its referral processes in ways that will benefit participants in both programs.

Community support included donations to our year-round Baby Boutique incentive project, along with a bounty of toys, books, hats, and mittens that were delivered to every family during the holidays.

Healthy Families vs. Foster Care

$4,000
Family in Healthy Families Program

$24,000
NYS Foster Care Program

Average annual cost for one Upstate NY family in Healthy Families is $4,000
Average annual cost for one child in NYS foster care is $24,000

96%
of Target Children Met Developmental Milestones
“Healthy Families helped me become a better mother by displaying love, affection and patience to my children.”
“Living at Evelyn’s House helped me in many ways and I am very grateful. They continued to support me and my son after I moved to my own apartment and into the real world.”
Evelyn’s House provides a safe, nurturing home and supportive services for young women who are homeless, ages 16–22, and pregnant or parenting. The site accommodates seven families at a time for up to 18-month stays.

The residents learn parenting and life skills to help them nurture their children and succeed in living independently. They benefit from service coordination, on-site instruction, home visiting, and community-based resources. Trained, caring staff provide round-the-clock support. Through individualized planning, the residents achieve goals for physical and mental health, safe and nurturing parenting practices, positive family interactions, healthy relationships, household skills, education, employment, and competence to maintain housing for her family.

In 2013, a total of 18 young mothers and 20 babies called Evelyn’s House “home” and a family’s average length of stay was seven months. Of these, two re-entered or continued high school and one graduated; two attended GED classes; three attended Community College and participated in On Point for College; one completed an outpatient drug rehab program; eight obtained day care; three participated in job training; two became employed; all 18 devoted daytime hours to education, employment, community programs or volunteer work; all 18 improved their parenting and life skills; and 12 families said farewell and moved into permanent housing.

An accessible site where community members are welcome to learn, share, and access a variety of supports, the Kniffin Center-Family Place is the only public family resource center in Oneida County. This year, 660 families obtained information, education, and referrals during free drop-in hours and various scheduled activities. Nurturing Parenting Programs® were attended by 101 parents and guardians. Hundreds of families participated in consultations, wellness and nutrition workshops, guided playroom activities, and seasonal celebrations. Each day, the Family Place coordinator welcomed families large and small, talked with parents about their immediate concerns and ongoing needs, provided any supports available on site, and then referred every family to other helpful resources in the community.

“Coming to the Family Place helped me gain back my confidence and focus on my children.”

18 mothers and 20 babies called Evelyn’s House “home” this year and all 12 “graduates” moved into safe, suitable permanent housing.

Established within Utica’s De Sales Center by the Family Nurturing Center in 1997, the Kniffin Center-Family Place is supported by various foundations, bequests, fundraisers and government sources – including City of Utica CDBG and New York State grants in 2013.
Kids Herkimer (KH) has been providing services to Herkimer County since June 2008. In an effort to maintain our vision of Keeping Families Together, Kids Herkimer continues to advocate for the needs of children in residential care and at risk for placement in Herkimer County by providing quality wraparound services and supports.

Kids Herkimer operated with five programs in 2013 – Intensive Preventive, Return Home Early, Family Reunification, Detention Diversion, and Service Provisions for Individual Needs. Kids Herkimer provided services to 108 children and their families through these five programs in 2013, engaging each of them with the necessary supports to meet their needs. KH is proud to boast a 90% success rate against recidivism as a program, truly showing our dedication to keeping our families together. With less than 10% of our children entering (or re-entering) out-of-home placement, Kids Herkimer programs are pleased to showcase the success of the wraparound principles hard at work. Each program supports Herkimer County families in a slightly different way, but all with the same strength-based approach towards success and independence. Of the 11 children that were provided supports through Kids Herkimer that need to be placed outside of the home, four were able to be maintained at a lower level of care (foster care) due partly to the diligent efforts and advocacy of the KH program and staff.

2013 Return Home Early Program

2,056
Days of Care Saved

$494K
Cost Avoidance

Kids Herkimer has had quite an impact in Herkimer County since its inception five and a half years ago. Through the Return Home Early efforts, the Kids Herkimer program has assisted in returning 61 children home from out-of-home residential placements prior to their court expiration date. These results have led to an avoidance of 10,136 days of residential care, producing a cost avoidance to the county and taxpayers of slightly over $2.2 million. Kids Herkimer focused its efforts in 2013 on continuing to support accountability for children at risk of placement as well as in residential care. Court Presentment meetings were implemented with the support of Kids Herkimer as a collaborative effort to ensure that the most at risk children for placement were being provided the most appropriate and effective services prior to referral for court. These efforts, as well as increased collaboration with DSS and Family Court, have helped create a true team approach in Herkimer County in keeping kids out of residential placement and keeping families together. Kids Herkimer is proud to be a part of this movement and will continue these efforts to instill the wraparound program to help families succeed as we move into 2014.
“Whenever my family needs support, it doesn't matter what it is for, someone is always there to help us, at home or at school. Between my parent aide, the behavior management, and mentoring services my family has just built such a strong bond. I mean, is there anything Kids Herkimer has not done for my family?”

Healthy Families of Herkimer County

Herkimer County established a Healthy Families Program in 2006 and now provides its state-funded home visiting services through a contract partnership with Kids Oneida.

Healthy Families serves the entire county and primarily in the valley corridor of six small villages. The county’s population, which is not ethnically diverse, reports high rates of minimum wage jobs, lower than average education levels and high rates of births to unwed mothers. To be culturally sensitive in Herkimer County is to understand poverty, and the Healthy Families staff knows how to identify and build on the strengths of their participants.

This year, Healthy Families succeeded in screening nearly all of Herkimer County’s prenatal families to determine program suitability. In providing home visits to a total of 73 families, the program met or exceeded 90% of the required performance targets and met all of the specific child health and development targets.

In 2013, Herkimer County was selected as a Healthy Families site to be reviewed next year through a federal examination of effective home visiting models that improve birth outcomes. As a bonus, the program will receive $19,000 in discretionary funds.

The program welcomed ongoing support from the community, particularly through donations of food, baby clothes and household furnishings that were much appreciated by families for the holidays and throughout the year.

92%

of the Primary Caretakers Obtained Education or Employment by the Child’s 1st Birthday
Kids Oneida Events Throughout the Year