

**Oneida Indian Nation**  
**2021 Annual Report**  
*Unto the Seventh Generation*

# Our Commitment to the Seventh Generation

The People and the leadership of the Oneida Indian Nation have identified three principal long-range goals to guide the community and economic development activities of the Nation and the administration and the leadership of the Nation. The adopted long-range goals of the Oneida Indian Nation are as follows:

- ❖ Help our Members achieve their highest potential in education, physical and mental health, and economic development;
- ❖ Implement the legal and administrative structure for the stability and protection of Nation sovereignty, treaty rights, and government-to-government relationships; and
- ❖ Acquire, develop, and secure resources to achieve economic and social empowerment and self-sufficiency for the Oneida Indian Nation.

These long-range goals have been adopted by the Nation as a guide toward the accomplishment of a progressive dream. Simultaneously, the Nation plans to use the economic incentives available to a sovereign nation to inject new wealth and create jobs for the Oneida community and, significantly, the surrounding communities.



tsya:ták na'tewatlé:slanet ohátú yátwanuhtunyúheke'  
*ja duck not day wud lay zla nate o hun do yuh dwa new dune you hake*

*Unto the Seventh Generation*



# Oneida Indian Nation 2021 Annual Report

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## A Message from the Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO

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Shekólih, greetings.

**A**s we reflect on the successes and challenges of the last year, a Native American proverb comes to mind: "The strength of our future lies in the protecting of our past." These words could not be more relevant for the Oneida People, who have built the framework for a prosperous future on a long history of perseverance in the face of hardship. They are also more meaningful after a year in which we faced unprecedented challenges.

Throughout the past year, we have worked hard to ensure Members' health and economic wellbeing and to protect our sovereignty and self-sufficiency.

We have maintained the critical services and programs Members depend upon, including Health Services, where COVID-19 vaccinations, testing and high-quality healthcare have been available for Nation Members and Native Americans living in our region.

The Neighborhoods project represents the Nation's most important investment in our future this year. The completion of its first phase, the new road connecting the Village of the White Pines and Territory Road, offers easy access to our most essential facilities. As work continues, the project will include a new community center, expanded housing and other resources that will fully reinvigorate and revitalize our Nation's community.



We have also continued to look to the future with our scholarship and incentive awards programs. Last fall, 37 Nation Members received scholarships, while 96 incentive awards were processed. These programs are an investment in not just each recipient's potential, but also the enduring success of our Nation as a whole.

We were able to invest in our most valued generations – our youth and our Elders – with upgrades to the Ray Elm Children & Elders Center that included a new fire suppression system. Programs for youth and Elders continued throughout the year, providing strong foundations and maintaining the connections that are so important for our Peoples' wellbeing.

Continued investment in our enterprises has helped ensure a brighter future for our People as well. From upgrades and additions to our properties to the announcement of our vacation rental destination on Oneida Lake, we have continued to strengthen and expand our enterprises. By doing so, we also strengthen the economic foundation of our Nation's and Members' self-sufficiency and ensure it will continue for generations to come.

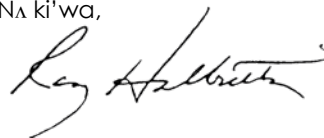
We have also continued to invest in our past. Early this summer, Nation Members joined City of Rome officials for the unveiling of a large-scale copper sculpture commemorating the Oneida Carrying Place that recognizes the Nation's historic role within our region. Nation Members also traveled to Philadelphia to perform Haudenosaunee social dances at the Museum of the American

Revolution's Indigenous Peoples Weekend, which highlighted the pivotal role of the Oneida People as America's First Allies in the war for independence.

This year marked our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Recognition Event, where more than 400 area veterans, including a number of Nation Members, were honored for their service. The event also commemorated the Nation's legacy in the founding of our country and our storied tradition of military service in every conflict since. Honoring the contributions and sacrifices of our ancestors with partnerships and events like these remains among the most important priorities for our Nation. We are proud to be part of these events and ensure the history of our ancestors is told accurately and without omission.

Even as we continue to navigate challenging times, we remain united by the perseverance we have always shown in the face of hardship. As we look ahead in a new year, our decisions will continue to protect our past and secure the strength of our future for many generations to come.

Nλ ki'wa,



Ray Halbritter

**While the pandemic brought a pause to many of the Nation's traditional events, a community favorite – the Three Sisters Dinner – returned in the summer of 2021 with a 'to-go' option at the Ray Elm Children & Elders Center. More than 225 meals were prepared. The menu included corn soup made by Barb George-Winton (Wolf Clan), and healthy dishes prepared by chefs at Turning Stone.**

**Right: Nation Representative Ray Halbritter and Heather Homer (Turtle Clan) visit during the event.**



## A Message from the Oneida Indian Nation Council



### Turtle Clan



Dale Rood



Clint Hill

### Wolf Clan



Ray Halbritter  
Nation  
Representative



Keller George



Chuck Fougner



Kim Jacobs  
Nation Clerk

### Bear Clan



Brian Patterson



Pete John

**S**hekólih. The Oneida Indian Nation is certainly no stranger to challenges, and this past year presented many, not only for the Oneida People, but for the entire community. While many of the obstacles we have faced have not been unique to the Nation, our ability to overcome them stands out as a testament to the Oneida spirit of perseverance and determination.

The programs and services we provide for our People – health care, education, youth development, recreation, Elder care, language preservation and more – remain our primary focus. Each year, we see our Members taking advantage of these opportunities to create a better life for themselves and their families.

Our determined approach to utilize our resources from the success of our enterprises into benefits for our People is the core of our mission to improve our Members' lives. This past year, Nation Members continued to make personal strides in the face of adversity, which makes our Nation stronger as a whole.

We were pleased to be able to restart some of our programs for our youth this past year, and we look forward to bringing more online when we are able to do so safely. We continued to invest in our facilities, having converted the fire suppression system in the Ray Elm Children & Elders Center to a modern, dry system. In addition, the entire main floor of the center was completely re-painted along with special acoustic paint applied to the Children's large motor room ceiling and the Elders' dining room ceiling. The Elders' programming continued virtually, with craft classes, exercise activities and virtual field trips remaining popular.

We also are excited for what the future will bring as we create additional homeownership opportunities





for Members with the development of the Oneida Neighborhoods project. A new road connecting the Village of the White Pines and Territory Road has been completed, which will bring safe, convenient access to many of our facilities.

The path has been difficult, but we have been able to overcome the many obstacles we have faced

time and time again. We will continue to move forward together, building a brighter future for all unto the Seventh Generation.

Na ki'wa,  
Oneida Indian Nation Council



## YOUTH & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Kids Jump Back in to Summer Jam

The Oneida Indian Nation's popular Summer Jam youth program saw a welcome return in 2021. Modified with safety measures, the program included 16 participants who enjoyed activities that included Oneida language learning, archery, healthy cooking demonstrations, craft classes and a demonstration on native plants.

Chelsea Jocko (Wolf Clan) led Oneida language learning sessions, which included some fun introductory games in the Nation gym that helped with recall and pronunciation repetition. The kids learned common words and phrases and how to work them into everyday conversation.

The Nation's Diabetes Program Coordinator,

Mollie Tracy, led three healthy cooking demonstrations at the Nation Cookhouse. Teaching youth healthy eating habits and the nutritional values of various foods can reap benefits for a lifetime.

Participants were also kept busy with physical activities such as swimming at the Nation pool, lacrosse, badminton, Frisbee golf and more as the weather allowed.

During one special presentation, participants were joined by Alicia Cook (Mohawk) to learn more about the native plants of the area and their many positive benefits for the human body. Eating natural foods helps us to avoid synthetic sugars that can be harmful in large amounts. Alicia is a Licensed Practical Nurse and a Master of Traditional Medicine with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

"Bitters make you strong and sweets make you weak," Alicia said to the group. "It's not about being skinny, it's about having and building strength."

The kids embraced the message and were enthusiastic participants throughout Alicia's presentation.







Lisa Powless (Wolf Clan) took the opportunity and ran with it at the Nation's Recreation Center, serving as the de facto youth programs assistant, handling some of the activities of the Summer Jam program.

In her role, Lisa made sure the kids followed safety protocols and stuck to the schedule of activities that were planned – while also participating in some herself.

Lisa is now in her senior year of high school and is excited about her future.

The Summer Jam program wrapped up with a Family Day celebration. The kids received their certificates of completion, played games in the gym and performed a Haudenosaunee song with assistance from Ron Patterson (Wolf Clan), Chelsea Jocko (Wolf Clan), Shako:wi's Cultural Programs Coordinator Jessica Farmer and Dancer/Singer Chris Thomas (Onondaga).



**"I want to be a nurse. I don't plan on working in child care, but this experience has been helpful getting to work with other people I don't know. I still look forward to coming back next year because I know we'll be able to do more."** - Lisa Powless

The Shako:wi Cultural Center staff worked with the kids on The Robin Dance and assisted them in making water drums as well. The activities provided an opportunity for the kids to learn more about Oneida culture and interact with their friends in a safe environment outside of school.

## Getting Back to Work/Learn

The Nation also was happy to restart its popular Youth Work/Learn program this past summer, with proper health and safety protocols in place.

With a limited number of participants - ten in total - the older kids were able to get a lot of hands-on experience at jobs within the Nation's enterprises as well as its government programs and services. The younger Crew took a few field trips in addition to their landscaping duties around Nation properties. The job placements gave participants some real-world experience and accountability.

The four other Youth Work/Learn participants worked at the Nation's golf department, a popular destination for the summer program. Pictured below, left to right, Jorgia Belewich, Diane and Stephanie Morris, and McKenna Cousineau (Turtle Clan) enjoyed being and working outside most of the summer.



McKenna liked the independence and responsibility of the job, though she hasn't ruled out looking for experience at another department.

**"I like how this is more independent (than the Crew) and I like being outside. But I'd like to try something else, too, because I think it's a great opportunity. Finding a job would be a lot harder, especially at this age, without the Youth Work/Learn program."** - McKenna Cousineau



The Longyear Museum of Anthropology was a popular stop on the tour. The group was joined by Kaytlynn Lynch, Curatorial Assistant and NAGPRA Coordinator for the museum, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Co-Director of University Museums and Curator for the Longyear, and Nation Member Lisa Latocha (Wolf Clan), the Community Liaison for the museum.

Artistry is handed down from generation to generation of Haudenosaunee. One of the feature exhibits curated by Kaytlynn, Makers and Materials of the Americas: A Celebration of Haudenosaunee Creativity and Craftsmanship, explores many of the items of significance in Haudenosaunee culture. The curators also picked out specific pieces that included no-face dolls, baskets and clay pots to show the kids up close outside of what is currently on exhibit.

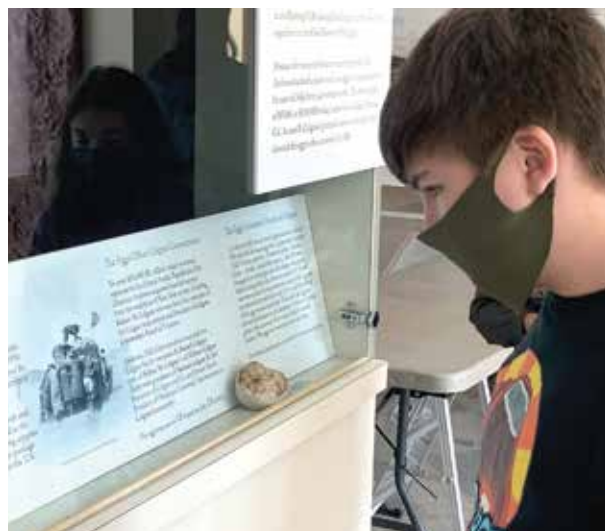


This season, the Crew included Javlyn Aregano (Turtle Clan), Elaina Cook (Wolf Clan), Daelyn Cousineau (Turtle Clan), Beleza Gibson (Turtle Clan) and Larry Torres (Turtle Clan).

The program has become a summer staple for Nation youth for over two decades. Next summer will hopefully provide more opportunities for the younger generation to work in the various departments of Oneida Nation Enterprises and the Nation.

## The Crew Steps Out

As part of the Nation's Youth Work/Learn program, younger participants – known colloquially as The Crew – were able to take a break from landscaping chores to enjoy a campus visit at Colgate University. The visit offered the group an opportunity to see some of the anthropological and historical artifacts as well as artwork that the school's University Museums cooperative has on display.





EDUCATION

# Nation's Scholarship Program Continues to Support Students

Education is the foundation on which many of life's accomplishments are built. This is why Nation leadership has made educational programming a priority for Members. The scholarship and incentive program, one of the first programs we established a few decades ago, is an investment in the future just as much as any growth and expansion of the Nation's enterprises.

A good education will help ensure Members have the skills, training and knowledge necessary to build on the Nation's success and to protect and preserve what the Nation has built unto the Seventh Generation.

Recently, the Nation has made applications for scholarship and incentive awards and other important forms available for Members on the Nation website.



Shyanne Ninham (Turtle Clan)

## Big Things on the Horizon

At some point in our lives, the universe puts everything in its proper order and all that's left to do is the work. Shyanne Ninham (Turtle Clan) has put in the work and is taking the next step in her educational and professional development. She remains firmly focused on her future and excited to see what her journey will bring next.

Shyanne has taken full advantage of the Nation's commitment to supporting the educational pursuits of its Members. She began at Manlius Pebble Hill School in third grade, but always had her sights set on much more.

After graduating from Manlius Pebble Hill in 2011, she headed to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, where she majored in psychology. She then earned her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from Syracuse University.

"Part of the reason I did the master's program was because I wanted to do clinical work with the Nation or at Onondaga," Shyanne said. "I just really wanted to work with Native people because that's my end goal. It was nice to be home and get involved in the indigenous students association at SU, too."

Following the completion of her master's degree, Shyanne took two years off from her educational

As of the Fall 2021 semester there were **37** Members enrolled in higher education programs:



Doctorate Programs/  
Professional Practice

**4**

Doctorate Programs/  
Research PhD

**1**

Graduate Certificate

**1**

Master's

**4**

Bachelor's

**12**

Associate

**9**

Vocational/Trade  
Degree/Certificate

**4**

Seminar/Workshop/  
Certificate

**2**

There were **96** incentive awards for high academic achievement processed by the fall semester of 2021.

work to take a job at a suicide lifeline where she gained valuable experience in crisis mental health, triaging calls and planning. She then moved to northern Virginia to work primarily in the area of addiction.

Now, Shyanne is taking the next step of her educational journey. She recently enrolled in Fordham University's counseling psychology doctoral program, a six-year, research-intensive course of study that will prepare her for her next career.

"What I really want to do is get training in how to conduct and disseminate research," Shyanne said. "There's a big disconnect between the western approach to treatment and any other method. If we can tie in what we already know about that approach, and then incorporate the use of Native practices, we can help millions more, beyond even our own community."

She hopes to do more evidence-based research within Native communities using both her clinical and counseling skills. Many races, but especially Native communities, have had to deal with inequity in so many areas – from health care and housing to sovereignty and land reacquisition.

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**"I want to get a job where I'm helping people and making a meaningful difference. That is such a core part of who I am and what I do now."** - Shyanne Ninham

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Shyanne realizes that she's been fortunate to take advantage of so many great opportunities to enact change, especially in a field she's become so passionate about. It's been a long road, but one she's navigated with clear eyes and vision on her end goal.

"It's been quite a journey! I can't wait to get to work," she said.



Marcella Heisey (Turtle Clan)

## A Courageous Stand

Queensbury Union Free High School graduate Marcella Heisey (Turtle Clan) was undaunted by the rejection of her initial request to wear a Six Nations Hiawatha Belt stole during her graduation ceremony in June. She wondered why her school district, near Albany, NY, would deny students the opportunity to share their cultural heritage on such a significant day. The school's graduation dress code policy had been in place for years and was clearly outdated.

So, with the help of her mother, Angela, and the added pressure from local media coverage, Marcella was able to schedule a meeting with the district superintendent. "We were successful and they're updating the policy," Marcella said a few weeks before her graduation. "From here on out, they'll allow people to make requests to get their regalia approved. Getting the Six Nations stole approved means no one else will have to request to wear it."

It was important to Marcella that the decision was not perceived to be any sort of special treatment from the school. The policy change enables all students to request specific regalia, and once approved, students in subsequent years wouldn't need to request it again.



"We are grateful and proud of Oneida Indian Nation Member and Queensbury senior Marcella Heisey for taking a stand to call attention to this needed change and help instate a policy that embraces the diversity of her school's student body," said Ray Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO.

The past year and a half in school has been very different for most students. The COVID-19 pandemic forced schools in the state to adopt several new changes to the learning environment to ensure everyone's safety, including virtual learning, which many students were experiencing for the first time.

It was a challenge for Marcella, but she was able to make the most of it.

"All of my teachers have been really supportive, so that made the transition as easy as it could have been," Marcella said. "But I would go into school every now and then for clubs."

Marcella has been working hard for the last two years to get into one of her top colleges, which she trimmed to Dartmouth and Cornell – two elite Ivy League schools.

"Ultimately, I thought Dartmouth was a better fit for me so I was ecstatic when I got in," she said excitedly. "My guidance counselor, Mr. Diamond, was so helpful and supportive through the process."

Marcella began her studies this semester as a biology major on her journey to become a dentist. She is participating in the Nation's Scholarship Program, too, to help cover some of the costs of attendance so she can focus on her classes, which she believes will be fairly labor-intensive. Her mom, Angela, also utilized the program and graduated from Clarkson University with a degree in chemical engineering.



The precedent Marcella helped establish at her high school to celebrate the diverse cultures of its students is an accomplishment all of Indian Country can share in. Actions taken like Marcella's will encourage other school districts to consider updating their graduation dress codes to be more inclusive.



## Member Celebrated as "Artist to Watch"

Olivia Bigtree (Turtle Clan) was named as an "Artist to Watch" in a June 2021 New York Times article.

A student at the world-renowned Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Olivia has been regionally and nationally recognized for her thought-provoking work. In the New York Times story, Native American multimedia artist Wendy Red Star says Olivia's work is, "sophisticated, slick and has style," adding, "I think she's going to be a really powerful force."

Olivia's early list of awards and accomplishments include being named a U.S. Presidential Scholar of the Arts, a national medalist in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, and winner of U.S. Representative John Katko's Congressional Art Competition.

ONEIDA LANGUAGE

# Language Program Continues Important Progress

Retaining and growing the Oneida language for the future generations is a critical initiative for the Oneida Indian Nation. Through thoughtful and productive collaborations, there are more learning tools for Nation Members to access so learning the language is more appealing.

The Nation's Language Department released the fourth book in a series collaboration with Madison-Oneida BOCES entitled, *The Tale of Two Teams*. The book tells one version of the Haudenosaunee legend centered around a significant lacrosse game between the land animals and the flying animals. The children's book introduces the Oneida word for animals – "kutilyo'shúha" – along with its phonetics so readers can learn how to say the word by the end. It features elaborate and colorful illustrations by graphic media artist William Burns (Lakota Sioux) who works in the Nation's communications department.

The Language Department also released its 2022 calendar with various Oneida words and phrases, which this year will have printed QR codes that will direct Members to the Nation's website to hear the pronunciations. MOBOCES assisted with the projects and looks forward to collaborating in year eight of the successful partnership.



**"This year we were able to create many new resources for Members to learn the language at their own pace. These resources are a great way to introduce the language to anyone that wants to learn and sustain it for future generations."**

- Mary Blau

This past year, the program also worked in close partnership with The Language Conservancy (TLC) in using the latest in available technology and techniques to preserve the Oneida language and make it accessible to more people. TLC is an organization that works with communities across the world to revitalize endangered languages and help them create the tools necessary for more efficient learning.

The projects that have been completed so far include a textbook with supporting flashcards, audio CD and smartphone app. The app will allow users to scan pages of the book for audio playback and interaction. Oneida songs are also included with the app, which will launch soon. A second textbook is under development and will include more advanced language lessons.

Soon, work will begin on a brand-new language computer lab at the Language Program location on Territory Road. The Nation looks forward to sharing more information in the year ahead on this exciting new development.







ELDERS

## Elders Stay Connected

The personal connections between people are an important element for a healthy community. The pandemic has made that connection difficult for many. But Oneida Elders have taken advantage of several opportunities made available to get together virtually through more than **140** Zoom sessions led by Tammy Patterson (Wolf Clan), Elders Activities Leader, and Jeanne Dee Northington (Wolf Clan), Elders Respite Services Aide. Several activities were offered during the sessions including crafts, sewing, fitness and exercise, games, virtual travel and the always-popular bingo.

Several Elders participated in an outdoor walking club, making **16** outings to enjoy the fresh air and to get in some exercise. Elders program staff also made more than **200** home visits to assist with errands, check on Elders' wellbeing, or just to stay in touch – sustaining that vital connection with the most precious generation.

Home-delivered and take-out meals have continued through the program providing nutritious food daily. To date, more than **17,000** meals have been provided since the beginning of the pandemic.



## Nation Elder Raises Bar on Standards for Health and Exercise

Over the course of his weightlifting career so far, 78-year-old Ray Fougner (Wolf Clan) has set 20 World Records and 28 American Records. In addition, he has won 8 AAU Best Lifter Awards in world and international competition and has been selected as the AAU powerlifting Male Athlete of the Year in 2018 and 2020.

Earlier in the year at April's AAU North American Championships, Ray completed all nine lifts (three for each category), successfully setting the world record for his age group in the squat (297.6 lb.), bench press (198.4 lb.) and deadlift (429.8 lb.) for a total of 914.9 lb. or 415 kg.

Later in September, at the International Championships, Ray was able to raise the bar once again, setting new marks for the squat and deadlift.

He won the Best Lifter Award at the event – an award he's only missed once since 2016 in AAU competition. That award is open to every competitor and uses a weighted score that measures the relative strength of powerlifters so everyone competes on a level playing field.



**"I am glad to continue serving as an example of the powers of healthy living. If I can do it, so can others. When it comes to physical ability and exercise, age really is just a number."** - Ray Fougner

Ray trains six days per week for two hours a day. He splits his time between lifting and cardio work, and plans to compete in the next event in April.



## EARLY LEARNING CENTER ELC Maintains Safe Learning Environment

Still operating under limited capacity following health and safety protocols, the Oneida Indian Nation's nationally accredited Early Learning Center provided the foundational programming for the development of children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old.

This year, preschool and pre-k participants enjoyed a fun trike-a-thon and a Halloween parade and party, among other safe events. The pre-k class also was able to enjoy a graduation ceremony this year with family members in attendance.

The school-age program at the Nation's Early Learning Center was able to re-open to a limited number of children to ensure protocols could be maintained. The participants made the best of the summer at the ELC while participating in hands-on learning activities and spending most of their days enjoying the beautiful grounds surrounding the building.



Teachers also implemented the Ages and Stages Questionnaire developmental assessment tool.

The ASQ-3 is a set of questionnaires directed at children's development from 2-66 months and is administered by parents and educators. The screening provides a look at children's progress in the skill areas of communication, physical ability, social skills and problem-solving skills. The ASQ-3 can help identify children's strengths as well as areas where support may be needed. The

teachers use this assessment tool to guide their lesson planning and complete their developmental checklists. This allows them to provide suggestions for activities which families can use to promote their child's development.





CULTURE & HERITAGE

# Cultural Recognition, Celebration Highlight the Year

## Oneida Carry Monument Dedication

In May, the Oneida Indian Nation, along with officials from Oneida County and the City of Rome, unveiled a new sculpture and public exhibit commemorating the historic Oneida Carrying Place and the Nation's legacy as America's First Allies. Measuring an impressive 7 feet by 27 feet, the display features three detailed copper panels behind a life-size copper sculpture of an Oneida warrior. The panels are made of copper specifically to pay tribute to Rome's distinction as the "Copper City."

Before the unveiling, Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter spoke of the Nation's historic legacy, explaining how the area connecting the

Mohawk River and Wood Creek was integral to the success of the American colonists during the Revolutionary War.

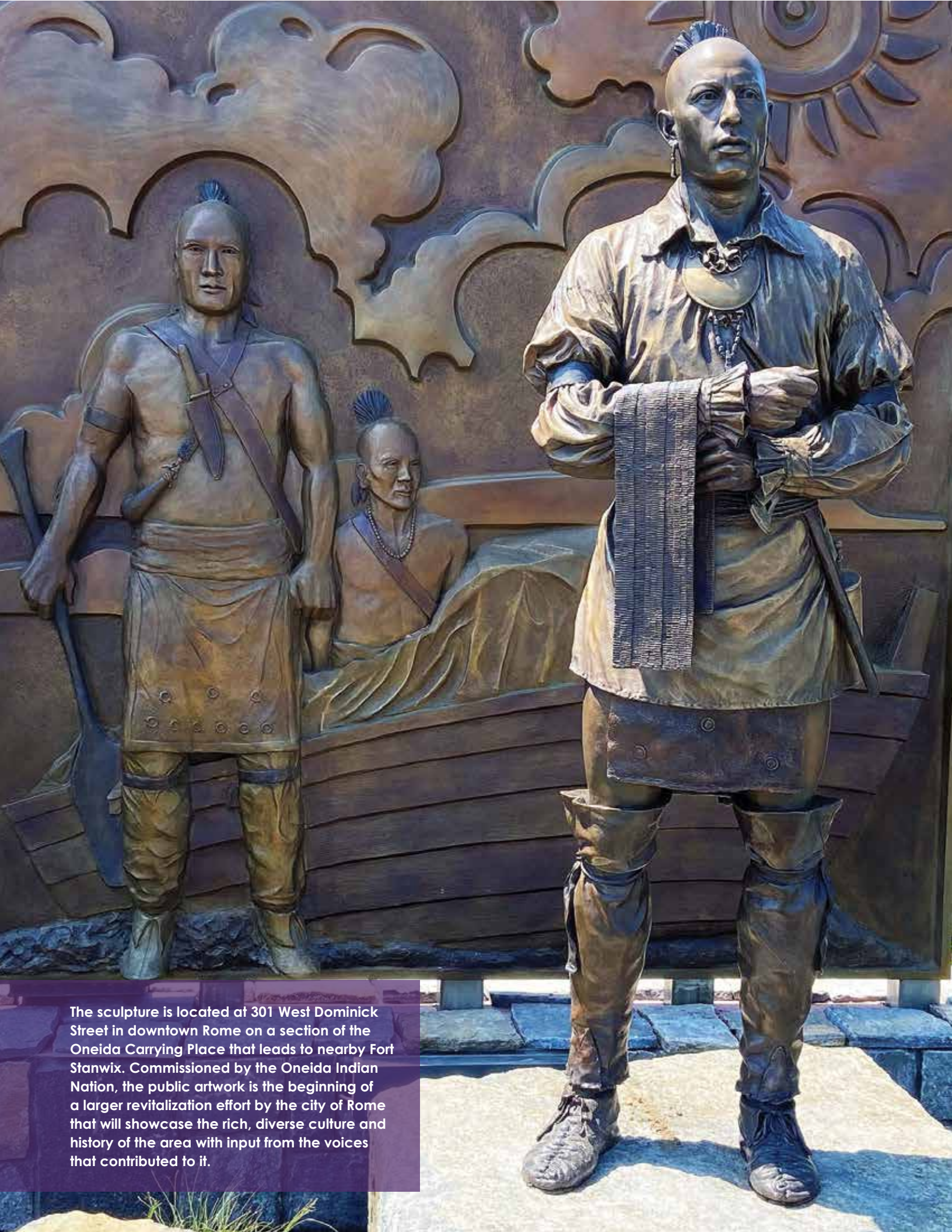
"Recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of our ancestors is among the most important priorities for the Oneida Indian Nation," said Halbritter. "This beautiful tribute will remind us to never forget our collective past and help visitors learn about the role this region played in the founding of the country."



One panel represents the Clans of the Oneida – Turtle, Wolf and Bear. Another depicts Oneida men physically carrying a boat to shore. The Oneida Carrying Place served as a land bridge between the Mohawk River to the east, and Wood Creek to the west.







The sculpture is located at 301 West Dominick Street in downtown Rome on a section of the Oneida Carrying Place that leads to nearby Fort Stanwix. Commissioned by the Oneida Indian Nation, the public artwork is the beginning of a larger revitalization effort by the city of Rome that will showcase the rich, diverse culture and history of the area with input from the voices that contributed to it.



The center panel includes depictions of Oneida warriors and of an Oneida leader. The Oneida leader standing in front of the panel, on a stone, is holding a two-row wampum. This belt symbolizes the agreement and conditions under which the Haudenosaunee welcomed the newcomers to this land.

While the Carry was used by the Haudenosaunee well before European settlers arrived, the path became a critical strategic area during the American Revolution when the Oneidas helped the American colonists defend nearby Fort Stanwix from a British siege. The attempted siege failed and helped change the momentum of the war.



Several Nation Members, including Bear Clan Council Member Brian Patterson and Sheri Beglen (Wolf Clan), who gave words of thanks to begin the ceremony, attended the event. The large group, some dressed in regalia to honor their ancestors who were among the first friends to the Americans, joined for photos in front of the new sculpture to mark the momentous occasion that will keep the Nation's collective story alive for future generations.



## Oneidas Commemorate Battle of Oriskany

On August 6th – the 244th anniversary of the Battle of Oriskany – Nation Members gathered with the local community to commemorate the friendship forged between the Oneidas and American colonists during the battle, and remember the sacrifices both sides endured for generations after.

The battle is known as one of the bloodiest of the Revolutionary War and proved to be a pivotal moment that led to the Americans' eventual victory. The unification of the colonists and the Oneidas at Oriskany protected nearby Fort Stanwix from a forthcoming British siege. If the British and their loyalists were successful, they could've divided the colonies in half, extending the war. Nearly two and half centuries later, the Oneidas' legacy as America's First Allies is finally being recognized. Bear Clan Council Member Brian





Patterson noted the historic investments the Nation is making – including a dedicated exhibit at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia – to ensure future generations know the whole story of the United States' founding.

Brian's daughter, Stevie Rae Patterson (Wolf Clan), has been attending the ceremony ever since she was a little girl. Now she's bringing her own daughter.

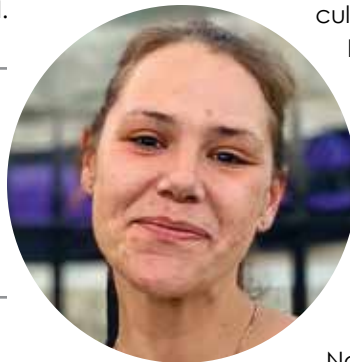
"It's kind of surreal, but really cool to pass the torch of knowledge on so she can learn about her ancestry," she said.

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**"It's a very tangible history, it's our local history and a lot of people don't know about it so it is great to be able to carry on that tradition."**

- Stevie Rae Patterson

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It was also the first time for some Nation Members, including Madison Dickerman (Turtle Clan).

"It was really interesting," she said after the ceremony. "Seeing it firsthand and hearing everybody speak was powerful."

Speakers at the 244th anniversary ceremony included Assemblymember Marianne Buttenschon, New York State Historic Site Regional Supervisor for the Central Region Michael G. Roets, and Marine Corps veteran Justin Muir from Clear Path for Veterans. Brian delivered closing remarks.

The solemn ceremony is held annually at the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site near the original Oneida village of Oriska.

## Nation Celebrates Indigenous Peoples Weekend at the Museum of the American Revolution

In October, the Oneida Indian Nation took part in the Museum of the American Revolution's Indigenous Peoples Weekend to honor the Nation's legacy of support for the United States as its First Allies. The annual event encourages visitors to explore American Indian history and culture, ensuring an increasingly diverse country's history accurately reflects the diversity of its foundational story.

Nation Members Wes Halsey (Wolf Clan), Cameron Schenandoah (Wolf Clan) and Jamison Cathers (Turtle Clan) traveled to the museum in Philadelphia along with Chris and Hailey Thomas (Onondaga) for the event as part of a group of dancers sponsored by the Nation. The group performed Haudenosaunee social dances in the museum's outdoor plaza, interacting with the crowd to make the presentation more educational and entertaining for all.

Guests also enjoyed screenings of "The People of the Standing Stone" in the museum's Lenfest Myer Theater. The 27-minute documentary shares





the Oneida Indian Nation's tremendous story of courage and generosity, cementing the Oneidas' standing as America's First Allies. Narrated by Academy Award winning actor Kevin Costner and directed by Emmy Award winner Ric Burns, the film traces the Nation's history during the Revolutionary War with a deeper exploration of the story not often found in history textbooks.

The film also was featured in a special screening during the Nation-sponsored Syracuse International Film Festival in October. Immediately following the screening, Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter was interviewed about the film and the Nation's efforts around Native American representation in popular culture. The screening of the documentary and interview was broadcast on WCNY.

Also in October, the museum opened a new exhibition featuring the Nation's pivotal role in American history with Liberty: Don Troiani's Paintings of the Revolutionary War.

The exhibition includes 40 of the artists' paintings and will be on display through September 2022. The Nation was pleased to loan "The Oneidas at the Battle of Oriskany" for the exhibition, a stunning painting commissioned with Troiani that depicts Han Yerry and Tyonajanegen in battle. A renowned historical artist, Troiani is celebrated for his research-based paintings that bring to life compelling stories of the diverse people of the American Revolution.

The Nation is a proud sponsor of the Museum of the American Revolution and its ongoing efforts to tell the full story of the United States' founding. The phrase "never forget!" is a refrain we often hear about history. It urges us to preserve our heritage and reminds us that without effort, our past can be erased from our memories. Nation support for the Museum of the American Revolution and events like Indigenous Peoples Weekend helps ensure the history of our ancestors is told without distortions, mistruths or omissions for generations to come.





## Native American Heritage Month Brings Message of Peace

During the month of November – National Native American Heritage Month – the Oneida Indian Nation unveiled a new cultural art installation called the Passage of Peace. Comprising nine illuminated tipis located on Nation lands just prior to Exit 33 on I-90, the Passage of Peace was on display through the end of the year.

Native American Nations, especially those in the West, have been overwhelmingly and disproportionately affected by COVID-19. One in every 475 Native Americans has died from COVID, compared to one in every 825 white Americans and one in 645 Black Americans. These Nations have also borne the greatest losses among Elders, who are so critical to preserving history, language and culture.

The Nation chose the tipi as the Passage of Peace's central image to recognize both these Western Tribal Nations and the collective challenges of Native American people. With countless social and ceremonial roles, tipis represent Indigenous People's essential relationships with nature and the spiritual world. They embody the persistence of Native Nations in the face of historical hardships and our enduring role in the story of the United States, beginning with the Nation's alignment with colonial forces that made us America's First Allies.



Like the eternal significance of the tipi, Native Americans have withstood countless challenges, from the theft of sacred lands to the denial of culture, all with the strength required to endure and move forward.

"We hope The Passage of Peace will bring attention to continued hardship taking place in many parts of Indian Country, while delivering a message of peace and remembrance with our neighboring communities here in Upstate New York," said Ray Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO.

The installation was inspired by similar public artworks created by American Indian Nations throughout the country. The Nation was moved to create the Passage of Peace to honor those lost during the COVID-19 pandemic and to share a message of peace with all who passed through the Nation's ancestral homelands.





Also in November, the Nation participated in community events highlighting the contributions of the Oneidas to the formation of the United States and celebrating the cultural heritage and vibrancy of the Haudenosaunee People.

Ron Patterson (Wolf Clan) participated in a virtual presentation hosted by the Rome Historical Society, sharing a seldom-heard perspective on the Oneidas involvement in the Revolutionary War and the circumstances that led to the Nation taking sides with the Americans.

The Oneida Public Library hosted a day of Haudenosaunee storytelling and social dance coordinated by Jessica Farmer, Cultural Programs Coordinator at Shako:wi Cultural Center. Jessica regaled the visitors with traditional tales passed down from generation-to-generation while social dancers, led by Chris Thomas (Onondaga) entertained with a colorful performance.

**The Shako:wi Cultural Center, the hub of thousands of years of Oneida history and heritage, continues to offer informative exhibits and displays for guests eager to learn more about the Oneida Indian Nation - past and present.**





ONEIDA NATION ENTERPRISES

# Oneida Nation Enterprises' Success Benefits Members, All of Upstate New York

Even during what have been very challenging times, the Oneida Indian Nation has remained focused on reinvesting in the Upstate New York region – our homelands. The Nation's enterprises generate tens of millions of dollars, which boost the local economy, create jobs and directly fund major public priorities that serve Nation Members as well as provide stability and much-needed revenue for the region.

By reinvesting into the community 100 percent of its gaming revenues — more than any other Upstate gaming facility — the Nation is able to achieve its goal of building the region into a premier tourism and workforce destination. This past year saw record tourism numbers for our golf courses and new hotels and partnerships that have created more jobs.

During the recovery from the pandemic, the Nation spent more than \$189 million with vendors in the state, including \$66 million with vendors within the 3-county area of Oneida, Madison and Onondaga Counties.

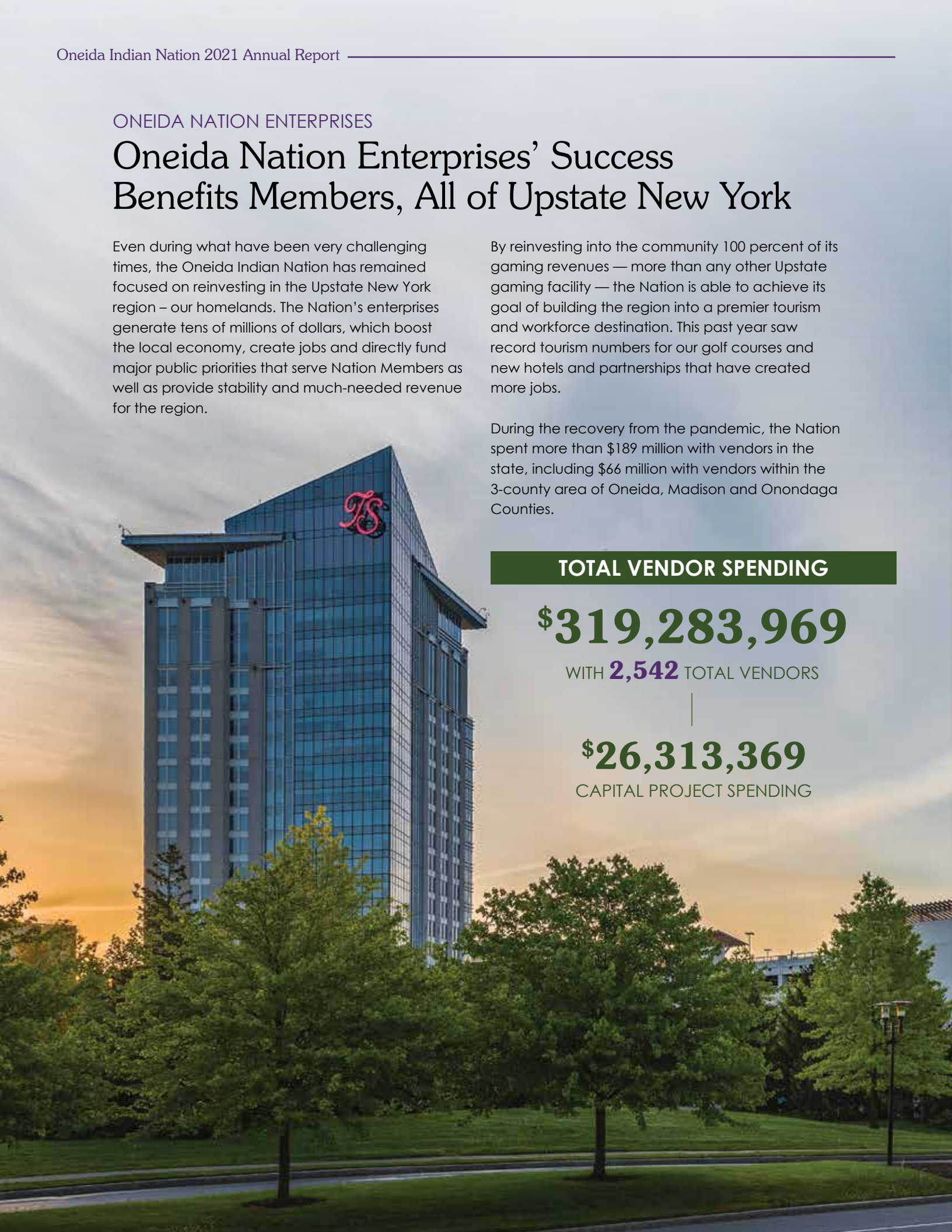
## TOTAL VENDOR SPENDING

**\$319,283,969**

WITH **2,542** TOTAL VENDORS

**\$26,313,369**

CAPITAL PROJECT SPENDING





**NEW YORK STATE VENDOR SPENDING**

**\$189,678,556**

WITH **1,226** NEW YORK STATE VENDORS

**\$66,657,825**

3-COUNTY REGIONAL SPENDING WITH **798** VENDORS



**LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT**

**\$167,128,452**

TOTAL PAYROLL WITH MORE THAN **4,000** EMPLOYEES



**\$15,275,155**

FEDERAL INCOME TAXES PAID BY O.N.E. EMPLOYEES

**\$6,849,987**

NEW YORK STATE INCOME TAXES PAID BY O.N.E. EMPLOYEES





## Turning Stone Stands Tall

Paving the way for a strong post-pandemic return, the Oneida Indian Nation made a multimillion-dollar investment in its Turning Stone Resort Casino in 2021, including a series of significant renovations and the introduction of new venues across the award-winning property.

As an economic engine for Upstate New York and one of the region's largest employers, Turning Stone is widely recognized for its crucial role in promoting regional tourism and economic development. The resort's success is also crucial to the Nation's ability to provide the means to create opportunities for Nation Members to improve their quality of life.

While Turning Stone maintained a comprehensive health and safety plan during the pandemic, it has also remained focused on maintaining its high standards and distinction as a best-in-class resort destination by reimagining several venues to support events like concerts, weddings and meetings, as well as upgrades that will continue to improve the overall guest experience.

The investments included:

- **The complete renovation and modernization of the Showroom:** The new Showroom, which made its debut in September, now offers 650 premium theater-style seats, a new state-of-the-art sound system and a completely new entrance and atrium with a new bar.
- **A brand-new Lounge at The Lodge:** A 25-foot cherrywood and quartz upscale bar in The Lodge Great Room now allows guests to enjoy drinks with friends inside Turning Stone's Forbes Four Star-rated property.
- **A brand-new buffet concept – 7 Kitchens:** 7 Kitchens will redefine the traditional buffet experience by combining a variety of quality artisan foods prepared by Turning Stone's award-winning culinary team with contemporary design from Sixteenfifty Creative Intelligence, the same creative team who helped develop the resort's TS Steakhouse, Upstate Tavern and Tin Rooster.
- **The Shenendoah Clubhouse:** An extensive refurbishment of Upstate New York's signature wedding destination venue including décor and guest amenities.
- **Cypress Conference Center:** A sophisticated renovation including all new carpeting, seating, draperies and fabrics to create an elegant and bold statement.





## Nation Member Excels at Her Job

Jessica Jackson (Bear Clan) is often the first face you'll see when you walk into the Executive Office at Turning Stone Resort Casino. She has been the executive receptionist for the past eleven years, including five years assisting Wolf Clan Council Member Chuck Fougner with donation requests for the Oneida Indian Nation Foundation. The job has been a great fit for her, and she's proud to be able to contribute to the Nation's operations.



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**"I moved here in 2010 when my mom moved back and so my kids could be a part of the community on our homelands. I was able to get this job when we moved and I love where I'm at."** - Jessica Jackson

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Turning Stone's three-decade commitment to constant evolution as the best resort destination is evident in its roster of prestigious awards:

- **Forbes Travel Guide**, considered the world's most prominent and respected name in luxury travel, recognized Turning Stone as one of only 160 resorts in the world to earn its **VERIFIED** rating, in addition to awarding four Forbes **Four-Star** ratings to the resort, the only resort in New York to achieve this distinction.
- **Casino Player Magazine** named Turning Stone the **#1 Best Overall Gaming Resort**.
- **AAA** presented three **Four Diamond Awards**.
- **Golf Digest** recognized Turning Stone with its **Editors' Choice Award**, naming it one of the **Best Golf Resorts in the Americas**, and;
- **Golf Advisor** named all three of Turning Stone's 18-hole courses as the **Top 3 Courses in New York**.

Jessica grew up on the Seneca Reservation's Allegany Territory. Her mother, Barbara Sayers and late grandmother, Sheila Sayers (Bear Clan), had moved interchangeably between Seneca and Oneida.

When Barb moved to the area to become a dealer at Turning Stone, Jessica thought it was time to move, too. Jessica's younger brother, Alden Dowdy (Bear Clan), also moved to the Oneida area around the same time.

Jessica's husband, Corry Jackson, has worked at Turning Stone as a poker room supervisor for eleven years as well. When they moved here, they had three children: Stoney, Joceyln and Jordana. They've since welcomed seven-year-old Rezzy and now reside in Oneida Castle. Her children have enjoyed many of the programs offered by the Oneida Indian Nation's Recreation Department for youth development, too.

Jessica also enjoys a longtime family tradition – beadwork. She credits her mother and grandmother with getting her started with beading at the age of five.



## Golf Drives Record-Breaking Tourism

Turning Stone Resort Casino set a new record for the number of guests traveling to Upstate New York to experience its world-class golf courses with a nearly 50% increase in golfers visiting this past year and 45% more golfers booking overnight visits and traveling from 41 different states.

This record-breaking year for golf tourism coincides with a historic level of investments made by the Oneida Indian Nation in the region, including The Cove at Sylvan Beach, a new \$35 million vacation destination opening next summer, and significant upgrades at Turning Stone such as an all-new Showroom.

“Our record-breaking golf season is an outstanding accomplishment for our employees and regional partners who are all dedicated to ensuring our region is a top golf and tourist destination,” said Director of Golf and Recreation Miles Blundell. “Many of our new guests have already rebooked golf trips for next year. Once they visited Turning Stone and saw all of the remarkable recreational activities in our region, guests knew they no longer needed to travel west or overseas to have an exceptional golf experience.”

2021 Turning Stone Golf Season by the Numbers:

- Golfers from **41 states** visited Turning Stone this year
- Nearly **50% increase in rounds** of golf played
- **45% increase in overnight stays** by golfers
- Visits from Mid-Atlantic golfers (PA, MD, VA) **tripled**
- Visits from Tri-State golfers (NY, NJ, CT) **doubled**
- Visits from Southeast golfers **doubled**

Turning Stone has been recognized by several industry leaders this year for its golf experience, including Golf Digest's Editors' Choice Award for Best Golf Resorts in the Northeast; Golf Channel's Golf Advisor rating Turning Stone's three 18-hole courses as the top three courses in New York; Casino Player Magazine awarding Turning Stone the #1 Best Golf Course in New York; and Northeast Golf Magazine awarding Turning Stone with three of its Best in Golf Awards for Best Travel Resorts & Destinations, Best Public Golf Courses and Best Instructors in New York.



## Point Place Casino Investment Benefits Local Businesses

In March, the Oneida Indian Nation celebrated the grand opening of Perfect Pour Café, a new coffee house and wine bar at Point Place Casino in Bridgeport.

In keeping with the Nation's commitment to supporting local vendors, the new café showcases products from other area businesses, including gourmet coffee exclusively from Utica Coffee, wine and spirits from several local wineries, breweries and distilleries, including Middle Ages Brewing, and décor sourced from Upstate New York partners.

Many of the design elements were sourced locally, including the elegant white marble and tiles for the main coffee bar from Syracuse-based Roma Tiles. Interior and exterior signs were created by Canastota-based Victory Signs, with the entire interior design from one of Syracuse's leading designers, Sheila Aggarwal from Zausmer, Frisch, Scruton and Aggarwal. The construction was managed by Syracuse's Hayner Hoyt Corporation.

Point Place Casino's new café is a continuation of significant investments made by the Nation in the property. In the three years since opening, Point Place Casino has expanded its gaming floor twice and added The Lounge with Caesars Sports, the extremely popular sports book.



## Expanded Accommodations Bring Jobs, Opportunity

In May, the Oneida Indian Nation opened Sandstone Hollow Inn, a hotel addition acquired and developed by the Nation in 2020. Sandstone Hollow Inn, formerly the Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham, is located near Turning Stone's Sandstone Hollow Golf Course on NYS Route 365. The dog-friendly hotel features complimentary shuttle service to Turning Stone, continental

breakfast offerings and laundry facilities for guests.

A month prior to the opening of Sandstone Hollow Inn, the area welcomed another new hotel with the grand opening of The Hampton Inn Verona at Turning Stone.

Owned by Benchmark Development and

managed by Meyer Jabara Hotels, the hotel created about 25 jobs and offers 110 guest rooms and complimentary shuttle service to Turning Stone.

The openings came in response to the growing demand for rooms at Turning Stone Resort Casino and are key indicators of positive economic growth in the region.







## Expanded Partnerships

Building upon an already robust relationship, the Oneida Indian Nation was proud to unveil a new retail store with partner Joel Shapiro – Mr. Shop at Turning Stone. A cornerstone of downtown Syracuse retail for the last three decades, Mr. Shop has become synonymous with exceptional men's formal and business fashion. Opened in October, Shapiro's second location of the immensely popular menswear store features the latest men's fashion, custom-tailored suits, business attire, casual wear and accessories. Mr. Shop at Turning Stone also offers suit and tuxedo rentals.

"We have seen from the success of The Commons that the unique boutique shopping experience resonates with our guests, and the opening of Mr. Shop at Turning Stone will be another welcomed addition to our roster of world-class amenities," said Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter.

Similar to The Commons at Turning Stone and YBR Supply Co. at the Nation's YBR Casino & Sports Book, Mr. Shop at Turning Stone is owned and operated by Shapiro.

"Opening Mr. Shop in a world-renowned destination resort like Turning Stone will introduce our collection of menswear to millions of guests who visit from all around the country," said Shapiro.

## Investment in Sylvan Beach is an Investment in the Future

This past year, the Oneida Indian Nation revealed plans for an all-new \$35 million vacation rental destination on Oneida Lake - The Cove at Sylvan Beach – with a grand opening set for May 21, 2022.

Featuring 70 contemporary and beautifully appointed two- and three-bedroom lakeside



ARTIST RENDERING



cottages and an extensive list of world-class amenities, including pontoon boats, firepits and more, The Cove's cottages are dog-friendly and available for weeklong rentals during the summer season.

The Cove will also include Sylvan Beach Supply Co., the destination's flagship store, for guests staying at the cottages and those visiting Sylvan Beach for the day. Sylvan Beach Supply Co. will offer daily rentals of pontoon boats, bicycles, paddleboards, kayaks, canoes and water bikes. The market-style store will also offer ice cream, grab-and-go sandwiches and other food items, groceries, beer, sundries, fishing poles, tackle and more.

The Cove at Sylvan Beach was created in partnership with Benchmark Development as part of the Nation's continued investment in Upstate

New York and Sylvan Beach, including The Lake House at Sylvan Beach, the Nation's beachside dining and entertainment destination that opened in 2020. The Lake House has been a significant part of a partnership between the Nation, Oneida

County and the village of Sylvan Beach, which has helped keep county property taxes low and finance other critical investments in the wider community.



The new strategic investment builds on the stunning natural beauty of the Oneida homelands and the welcoming hospitality of our People. With

increased tourism and economic activity, The Cove at Sylvan Beach along with the Lake House will help stimulate the regional economy and support the local community, as well as strengthen the foundation we are building for the future generations of the Oneida Indian Nation.





## COMMUNITY

# Honoring All Veterans Nation Celebrates Legacy as First Allies and Ongoing Support for Those Who Served

More than 400 local veterans were honored for their service at the Oneida Indian Nation's 20th Annual Veterans Recognition Event held in November at Turning Stone Resort Casino, including Nation Members and employees who are veterans.

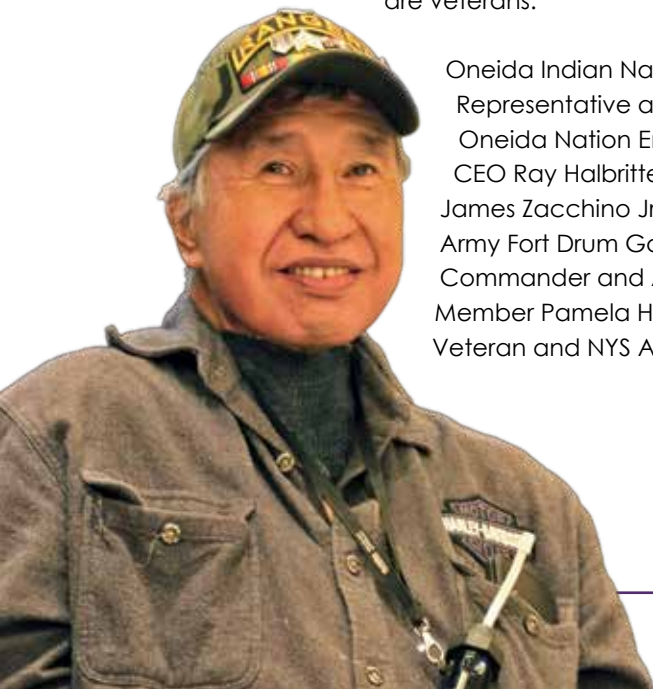
Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter, Col. James Zacchino Jr., U.S. Army Fort Drum Garrison Commander and Assembly Member Pamela Hunter, Army Veteran and NYS Assembly

Subcommittee Chair on Women Veterans, all shared remarks at the event about the special relationship between the Nation and the United States Military.

"The Oneida Indian Nation remains deeply committed to honoring and supporting our veterans," said Ray Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO. "An equally important part of that commitment is working to ensure the accurate preservation of history and recognizing the people that came before us by acknowledging and recognizing their sacrifice in creating this country."

During the event, Nation Members Kathy Kuhl (Wolf Clan), a mother with three veteran children, and David Ermenwein (Turtle Clan), U.S. Air Force veteran and current YBR Casino & Sports Book Operations Manager, were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the country.

Kathy is the mother of five children, three of whom served in the American Armed Forces. Her daughter, Heather, served 12 years in the Air Force. Her son, Will, served 6 years in the Army, including a deployment to Afghanistan, while her eldest son, Ron, served 3 years in the Marines.



**Chip Isaacs (Turtle Clan), U.S. Army Veteran of the Vietnam War.**



**Kathy Kuhl (center) attended the annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony and Breakfast with her daughter Amanda (Wolf Clan) and son-in-law Chris Hjort (Turtle Clan).**

In 2019, Kathy graduated with her doctoral degree from Swansea University and defended her dissertation entitled "Invisible Legacies: Exploring the political, social, cultural and economic consequences for the Oneida Indians of their involvement in the American Revolution up to the present day."

David was stationed at Upper Heyford in the United Kingdom for two years and then spent his last two years of service at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire. His father, John Ernenwein, is a Navy veteran who played a role in the response to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

David is currently the Operations Manager at YBR Casino & Sports Book with more than 28 years at Oneida Nation Enterprises. He worked his way up from table games and continued his education as an employee, earning his Associate's and Bachelor's degrees from SUNY Morrisville and a Master's degree in Service Leadership from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2010.

In addition to the Veterans Recognition Event, the Nation supports local veterans in several ways throughout the year, including offering free golf lessons for Central New York veterans. The Nation also partners with several local military and veteran organizations, including Feed Our Vets, Cell Phones for Soldiers, Ft. Drum and more.



## Event Center Serves Community During Pandemic

As vaccines for COVID-19 were becoming more readily available for eligible members of the community in early 2021, the Oneida Indian Nation and Oneida County teamed up to host vaccination distributions at the Turning Stone Resort Casino Event Center. Working together with the Oneida County Department of Health, the Oneida Indian Nation provided the much-needed space, security and staffing assistance required to make the vaccine point of distribution (POD) successful.





## Oneida Indian Nation Helps Raise Nearly \$30,000 for Local Charities

The Oneida Indian Nation has a long tradition of sharing its resources with others to benefit those with us today as well as the generations yet to come. By supporting charitable and civic causes and working with other governments to bring needed services to local communities, the Nation and its partners can make meaningful contributions to the betterment of our world.

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**“Our heritage of giving builds on what we have always understood to be our responsibility as a People. We are proud to be able to support these organizations in helping make a difference in the lives of those in need.”** - Chuck Fougner

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That is why the Nation was pleased to once again support partners such as the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York and the Muscular Dystrophy Association during their fundraising campaigns in 2021.

Participating SāvOn and Maple Leaf Market stores helped collect nearly \$30,000 in total for these organizations through guest donations.

- The stores collected **\$5,701.00** for the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley to help raise funds for their Purple Ribbon Campaign for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. The proceeds will benefit both the YWCA and the Liberty Resources Help Restore Hope Center's domestic violence programs. The YWCA provides crisis services and prevention in Oneida County, and the Liberty Resources Help Restore Hope Center serves Madison County.
- The Make-A-Wish Central New York's Holiday Star campaign received **\$8,179.00** from the Oneida Indian Nation in January of 2021. The donations help support life-changing wishes for local, critically ill children.
- A total of **\$15,468** was collected for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual shamrock sales and summer campaigns. Over the past 19 years, the Oneida Indian Nation and its retail convenience stores have raised more than \$265,000 for the MDA.

## Oneida Nation Enterprises Employees Step Up

Employees of Oneida Nation Enterprises contribute in many ways to benefit local charities. Among them is the annual “ICAN” Adopt-a-Family campaign that had twenty-three departments participate in providing holidays gifts to 41 families with more than 120 children in local communities, and the Food Bank of Central New York that received more than **1,100 pounds** in food donation collections from employees across the enterprises.





## Oneida Indian Nation Police Department Earns CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation

This past year the Oneida Indian Nation Police Department received the highest distinction from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), an honor the department has achieved every eligible year since it was established in 1993. Developed by public safety practitioners, the CALEA Accreditation is the international gold standard for public safety agencies.

The Nation Police Department is the first and only tribal police department in the nation to earn the prestigious CALEA Accreditation.



“The decades of experience and expert training of the men and women of the Oneida Indian Nation Police Department was even more critical over the last year as we supported Nation Members and the community throughout the pandemic,” said Ray Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO.

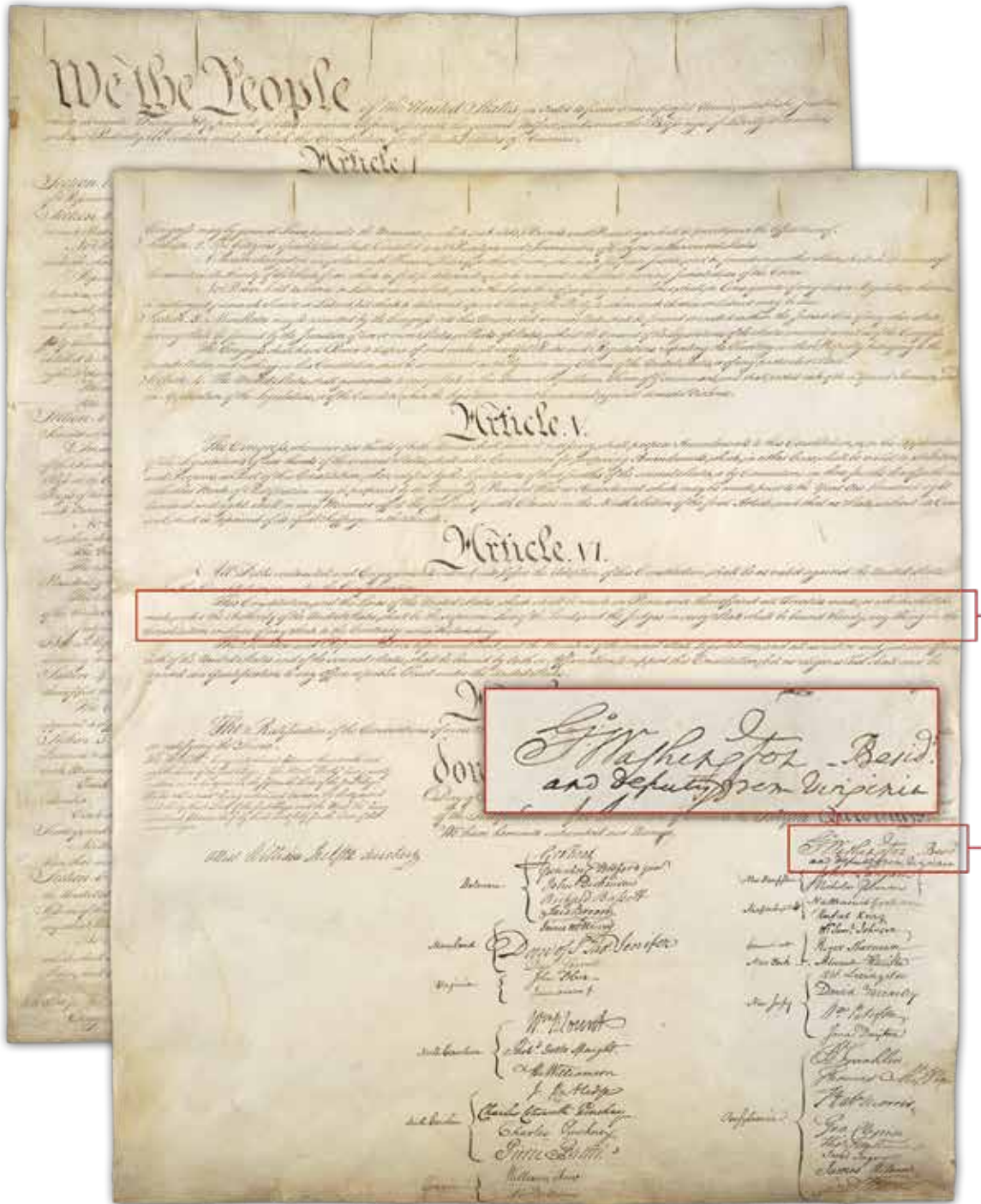
Two of the many important principles that CALEA Accreditation stands for are credibility and collaboration. These characteristics are also paramount to the Nation police who have partnered with federal, state and local agencies to help keep the communities of Central New York and their residents safe. Nation police officers are deputized by the Oneida and Madison County Sheriff Departments – increasing public safety and on-duty officer availability in those counties, as well as on Nation lands.

“We are very proud of the work and dedication our Department puts into the accreditation process,” said Oneida Indian Nation Chief of Police Gary Henderson. “Not many departments are willing to commit to such high standards that are set by CALEA, and we are grateful for the support we receive from the Oneida Indian Nation and its Members.”

The Oneida Indian Nation Police Department received an enhanced Certificate of Meritorious Accreditation for having been accredited for 25 consecutive years.

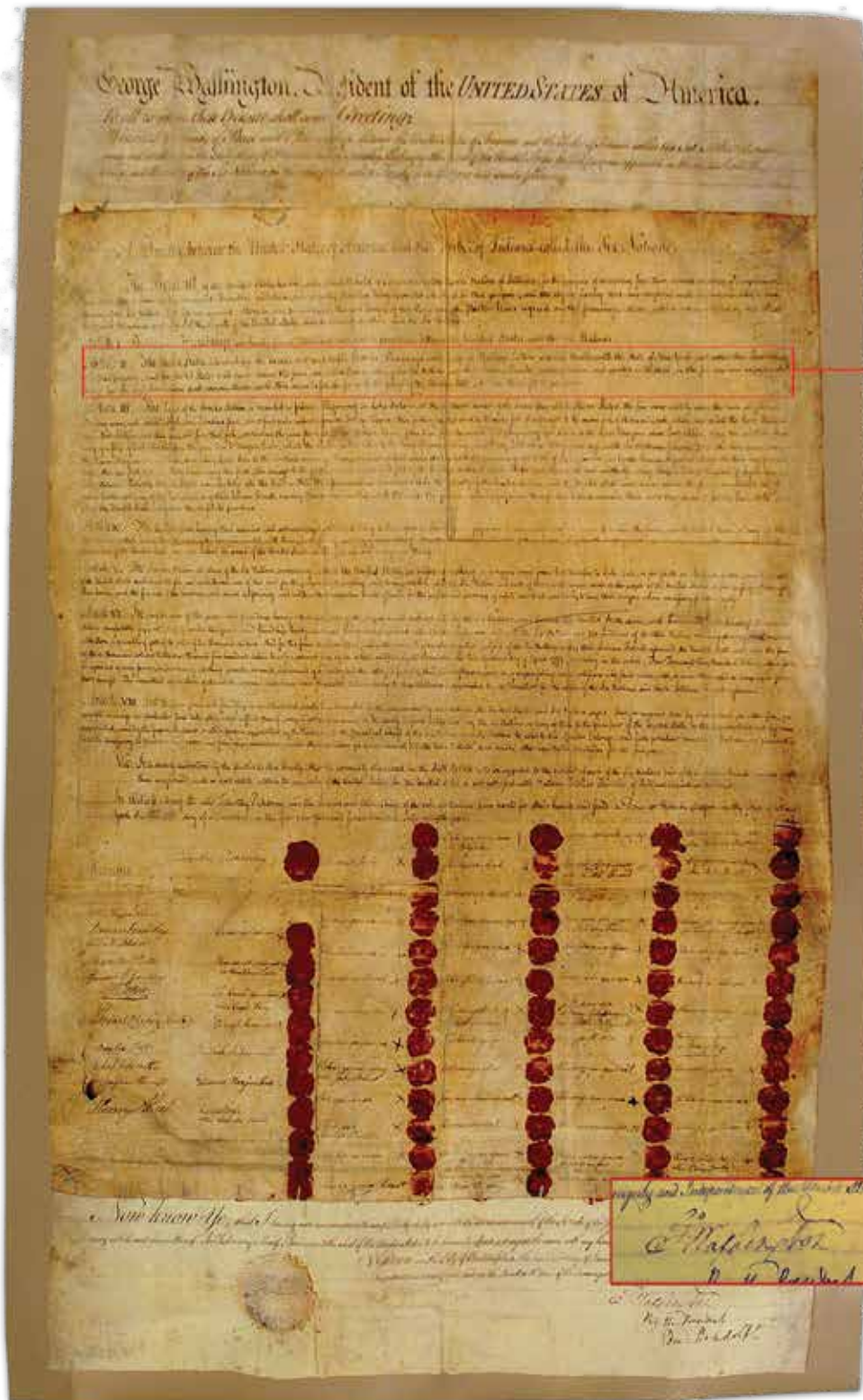






... and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; ...

~ U.S. Constitution, 1787, Article VI  
Signed by President George Washington and the other Founding Fathers



... The United States acknowledges the lands reserved to the Oneida, ... to be their property; and the United States will never claim the same, nor disturb them or either of the Six Nations, nor their Indian friends residing thereon and united with them, in the free use and enjoyment thereof; ...

~ U.S. Treaty With The Six Nations, 1794, Article II (Treaty of Canandaigua)  
Signed by President George Washington



# The Guswenta

## Two Row Wampum Belt: Symbol of Sovereignty

This belt symbolizes the agreement and conditions under which the Haudenosaunee welcomed the newcomers to this land.

“You say that you are our father and I am your son.”

We say, ‘We will not be like Father and Son, but like Brothers.’”

This wampum belt confirms our words. These two rows will symbolize two paths or two vessels, traveling down the same river together.

One, a birch bark canoe, will be for the Indian People, their laws, their customs and their ways. We shall each travel the river together, side by side, but in our own boat. Neither of us will make compulsory laws or interfere in the internal affairs of the other.

Neither of us will try to steer the other’s vessel.

From a 1614 agreement between the Haudenosaunee and representatives of the Dutch government, declaring peaceful coexistence. The agreement has been kept by the Haudenosaunee to this date.



Replica two-row wampum belt







# ONEIDA

[www.OneidaIndianNation.com](http://www.OneidaIndianNation.com)  
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