



Transforming Lives.
Transforming Communities.

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025



Our Mission

We break down barriers that prevent young, underserved individuals from achieving education and career success.

Our Vision

To transform communities by making college, training and career a reality for those who face great obstacles.

About Us

On Point for College is a not-for-profit education and career-attainment support program. We aid individuals in overcoming the barriers to post-secondary education by helping them access and succeed in college and training and certificate programs. We also help them leverage their skills and education into meaningful employment opportunities.

Our services are free, comprehensive, and holistic. They include one-on-one advising, help with program and financial aid applications, college tours, basic college and residence hall supplies, transportation to and from college, career coaching, placement in paid internship experiences, and much more. We strive to help with every step of the journey, from application through graduation and beyond.

We serve both traditional students, who enroll right out of high school, and non-traditional students, who pursue their education later in life. The vast majority of our students who attend college are the first members of their families to do so. Many face additional barriers such as poverty, homelessness, aging out of foster care, refugee or immigrant status, or a history of court involvement. For most, a post-secondary education would be out of reach without access to the services that On Point for College provides.

Since 2018, we have served Cayuga, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties.

Table of Contents

About On Point for College..... 2

Letter from Our Executive Director 4

Access and Success Program Highlights 6

Career and Volunteer Program Highlights..... 8

On Point for College Financial Overview..... 10

On Point Utica Financial Overview..... 11

Syracuse Program Update..... 12

Utica Program Update 14

Expanding Opportunity in Rural Communities..... 16

From On Point Student to Pediatric Anesthesiologist..... 18

Healing Forward..... 21

2026 Board of Directors, Advisory Committee, and Team 22





Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

For more than 25 years, On Point for College has helped students overcome the barriers that stand between them and their education and career goals. During 2024-2025, we continued that work while extending our reach, strengthening partnerships, and responding to the changing needs of students and communities across Central New York.

This year, On Point supported more than 5,000 students through our College Access, College Success, and Career Services programs. Behind that number are thousands of individual conversations and acts of support. Each reflects a shared purpose: ensuring that talent and determination are not limited by a lack of information, resources, or opportunity.

Our work also continued to grow beyond our traditional service areas. Through our partnership with the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation and school districts in Oswego County, On Point brought college and career advising directly to students in rural communities. We also strengthened relationships with students, schools, colleges, employers, and community partners throughout Syracuse, Utica, and the Mohawk Valley.

In Syracuse, On Point assumed new responsibilities as a lead agency for Project RISE, administering a \$1 million award and distributing funding to six community-based partner organizations. This role reflects the confidence placed in On Point to manage public resources responsibly and support

collaboration among organizations serving young people.

Even as our reach grew, our core work remained constant. We helped students enter post-secondary education, persist through challenges, earn credentials and degrees, and prepare for the workforce. We remained present when circumstances threatened to interrupt their progress.

Getting into college is only the beginning.

None of this work happens in isolation. It depends on the commitment of our staff and volunteers, the trust of students and families, and the partnership of schools, colleges, employers, government agencies, foundations, and donors. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this work possible.

As Central New York grows and changes, its success will depend on whether all young people can see and pursue a place for themselves in its future. On Point will continue to meet students where they are, remove barriers where we can, and help them turn education into opportunity.

Thank you for keeping it On Point.

With gratitude,



Samuel D. Rowser
Executive Director

From College Access to College Success

Data for fiscal year September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

Getting into college is an important milestone, but it is only one part of a student's journey. On Point helps students explore post-secondary options, complete applications and financial aid forms, visit campuses, and prepare for their first semester. Once students enroll, our advisors continue working with them as they navigate academic, financial, and personal challenges on the way to graduation.

1,164

new students joined On Point

14,743

interactions occurred between students and On Point's College Access and College Success teams.

801

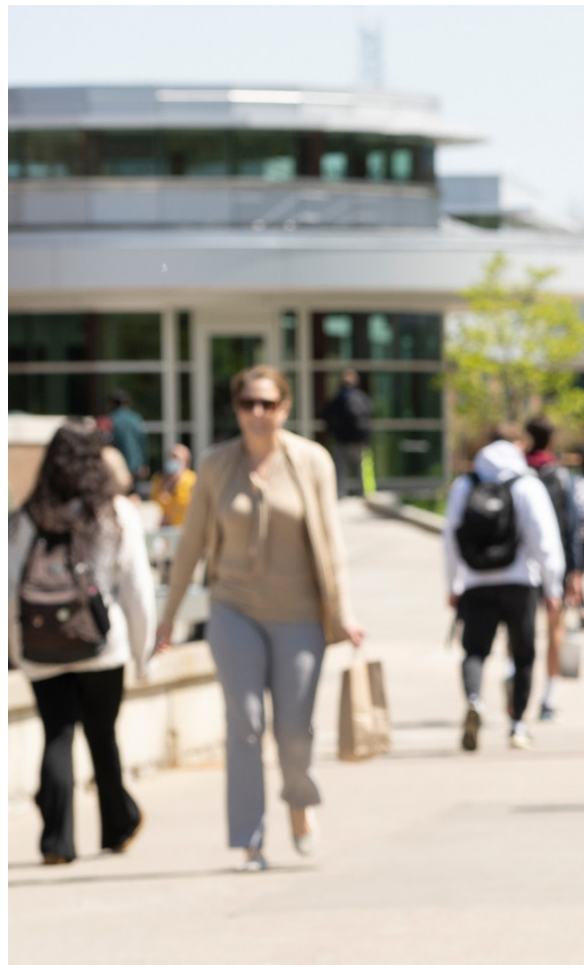
students received help completing the FAFSA

321

students participated in pre-college orientation

119

students participated in **26** tours of **20** college campuses



3,575

students were enrolled in post-secondary education during 2024–2025. Of those students, **628** enrolled for the **first time** in fall 2024.

523

students graduated, earning:

- 203 associate degrees
- 229 bachelor's degrees
- 47 master's degrees
- 12 doctoral degrees
- 37 certificates

Since 1999, **5,033** On Point students have graduated, earning **6,948** degrees and credentials.



Career Services and Volunteer Support

Data for fiscal year September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

On Point helps students and graduates translate their education to employment through career coaching, internships, workshops, networking opportunities, and employer connections. Volunteers extend On Point's reach by providing transportation, mentorship, career guidance, event support, donated supplies, and other assistance that helps On Point meet students' needs.

644

students and graduates worked with On Point's Career Services team

1,669

interactions occurred between Career Services staff and students seeking career advising and support

50

students gained professional experience through paid internships with **30** employers

30

students obtained jobs with On Point's assistance

260

students participated in career workshops, job fairs, networking opportunities, and other Career Services events



167

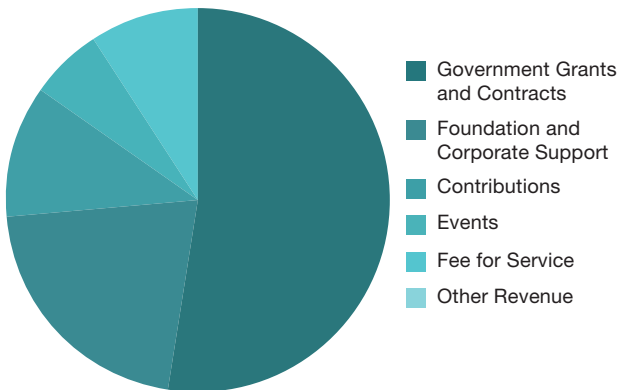
student rides through On Point's volunteer transportation program helped students reach college, appointments, and other essential destinations across more than 39,000 miles.

160+

volunteers support On Point and its students through transportation, tutoring, special events, office support, and other activities.

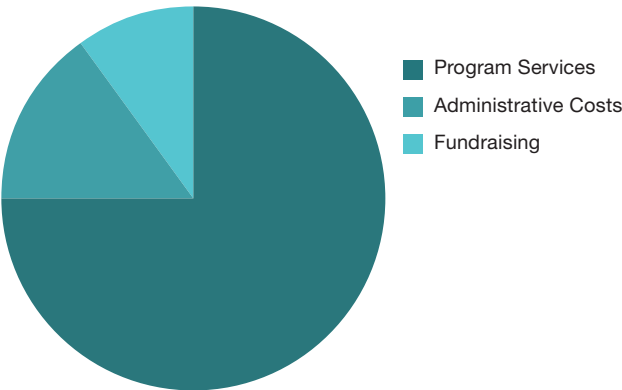
On Point for College Financial Overview

Organization-wide data for fiscal year September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025



Revenues

Government Grants and Contracts	2,847,171
Foundation and Corporate Support	1,153,654
Contributions	619,507
Events	317,724
Fee for Service	516,756
Other Revenue/Losses	9,549
Total Revenue	5,464,361

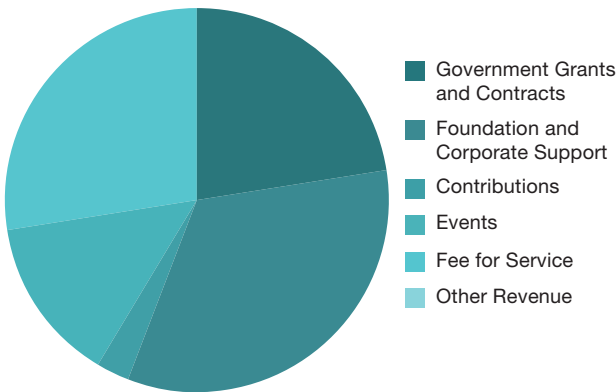


Expenses

Program Services	3,477,369
Administrative Costs	719,916
Fundraising	465,157
Total Expenses	4,662,442
Net Assets at 9/1/24	1,306,423
Net Assets at 8/31/25	2,108,342
Change in Net Assets	801,919

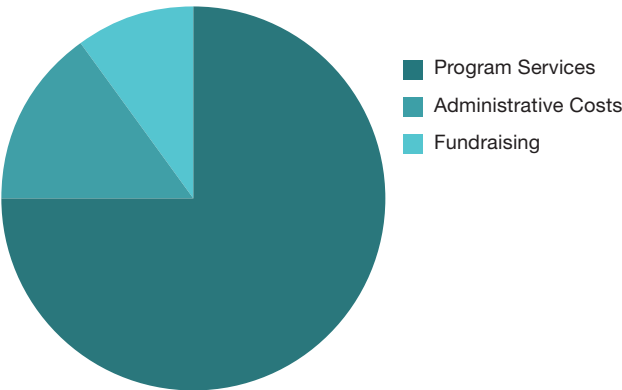
On Point Utica Financial Overview

Utica office data for fiscal year September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025



Revenues

Government Grants and Contracts	171,372
Foundation and Corporate Support	252,915
Contributions	19,264
Events	102,023
Fee for Service	209,217
Other Revenue/Losses	0
Total Revenue	754,791



Expenses

Program Services	480,328
Administrative Costs	99,442
Fundraising	64,252
Total Expenses	644,022

Syracuse Program Update

Syracuse oversees programs in Onondaga County.

In early 2024, the federal government launched a redesigned Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Delays and technical problems with the new form created uncertainty for students and families, with effects continuing into the 2024–25 school year. Fortunately, On Point was prepared to respond, having trained advisors to troubleshoot the new FAFSA process and help students and families complete the form, understand financial aid, and make informed decisions about college.

Syracuse staff also continued their regular presence in six city high schools, providing college and career advising at each school weekly. This presence gave students regular access to help with college applications, financial aid, career planning, and the many questions that arise as graduation approaches.

On the Career Services front, On Point continued its partnership with CenterState CEO through the workforce-development component of Syracuse Surge. Launched by then-Mayor Ben Walsh in 2019, Syracuse Surge was conceived as a broad strategy to prepare the city for growth in technology and advanced manufacturing. CenterState CEO looked to On Point to help recruit local residents for training programs and connect participants with employers and other opportunities following their training.

As On Point expanded its efforts to connect students with career opportunities, the organization hired Dr. Patricia Washington in

summer 2025 as its first director of workforce development. In this newly created position, she is responsible for expanding employer partnerships, strengthening career-readiness programming, and helping students and graduates prepare for sustainable careers in the region's changing economy.

Career Services also continued On Point's summer paid internship program, placing 47 Syracuse college students with 29 employers in summer 2025 through funding from Onondaga County. The program gives students access to meaningful professional experience while enabling businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and other organizations to host paid interns. For students who might otherwise be unable to take an unpaid internship, these opportunities can help build the experience and résumés they need to compete for future jobs.



Dr. Patricia Washington



On Point Syracuse alums Hassina Adams (left) and Fatna Mohamed (right) with the late Mark Cass, executive director of the North Side Learning Center. Photo by Jeremy Boyer for Syracuse.com.

Hassina and Fatna: Building Belonging

Having come to Syracuse as refugees themselves, On Point graduates Hassina Adams and Fatna Mohamed understand the challenges of building a new life in a new community. Both sought On Point's help as they pursued their college goals and have gone on to serve the community they now call home.

Today, Hassina and Fatna are helping strengthen Syracuse's North Side through Northside Futures, an initiative that grew out of the North Side Learning Center. As steering committee members, they have helped advance efforts to create safe, affordable housing and expand opportunities for neighborhood residents.

Hassina graduated from Syracuse University in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in international relations. A 2023 On Point

Celebration Star, she now serves as clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature and remains active in Syracuse's New American community.

Fatna earned an associate degree from Onondaga Community College and completed her bachelor's degree in psychology at SUNY Empire State University in spring 2026 while raising young children. Her experiences have shaped her interest in helping New Americans who have experienced trauma.

Their journeys have come full circle as they now help create opportunities for others in the community where they built new lives of their own.

More about Hassina:



Utica Program Update

Utica oversees programs in Herkimer, Madison, and Oneida Counties.



A Proctor High School student at an On Point FAFSA Event

On Point continued to expand its school-based advising in the Mohawk Valley during 2024–25, including through a fee-for-service partnership with the Utica City School District. On Point advisors were based at Proctor High School several days each week, giving students regular access to help with applications, financial aid, career planning, and other questions as they prepared for life after high school.

That support continued beyond high school, with On Point staff maintaining a regular presence at Mohawk Valley Community College and holding monthly office hours at Herkimer College. More than 320 On Point students attended the two colleges during the year. Advisors helped students address academic, financial, and personal challenges, transfer between colleges, and plan their next steps after earning an associate degree.

On the Career Services front, support from NBT Bank helped On Point expand opportunities for Mohawk Valley students interested in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and advanced manufacturing. Twenty Utica students participated in On Point’s STEM Pathways Cohort, receiving focused support as they prepared for college and careers in STEM fields.

Other workforce-development activities included a National Grid internship information session and expanded relationships with regional employers and workforce organizations, including the Griffiss Institute and Innovare Advancement Center. On Point staff toured Innovare in May 2025 to discuss potential opportunities for students. Together, these efforts expanded On Point’s network of workforce partners and created new opportunities to connect students with careers across the Mohawk Valley.

Gio Harvey Takes His Voice Statewide

Giovanni “Gio” Harvey first came to On Point for College in 2017, shortly before graduating from Proctor High School. That fall, he enrolled at Fulton-Montgomery Community College, beginning a journey that would eventually take him through three SUNY schools and into statewide student leadership. Getting to college, however, presented Gio with his first obstacle. With only \$25 to his name and no transportation to campus, Gio looked to On Point for help. An On Point volunteer drove Gio and his belongings to Johnstown so he could begin college.

It would not be the last time On Point helped Gio. Already interested in government and public service, Gio completed two internships with New York State Assemblymember Brian Miller with On Point’s assistance, including help getting professional clothing for his first internship. After earning his associate degree in 2019, Gio transferred to SUNY Polytechnic Institute, where he became deeply involved in student government. He also developed the idea for a statewide network of student

ambassadors for SUNY’s Educational Opportunity Program, a proposal SUNY ultimately adopted.

After graduating from SUNY Poly in 2023, Gio enrolled in a master’s program at the University at Albany. In spring 2024, he was elected president of the SUNY Student Assembly, a position that also made him the student member of the SUNY Board of Trustees. Over the course of the year, Gio traveled throughout the state, meeting with student leaders and advocating for students across SUNY’s 64 campuses. In April 2025, the SUNY Board of Trustees recognized Gio for his service. The following month, he graduated from UAlbany.

In June, Gio joined the administration of New York Governor Kathy Hochul as a press assistant. From needing help getting to his first college campus to representing students across the state, Gio has come a long way since joining On Point.

More about Gio:



Gio Harvey (center) with On Point’s Kevin Marken (left) and Sam Rowser (right)



Expanding Opportunity in Rural Communities

Rural Initiatives oversees programs in Cayuga and Oswego Counties.

The 2024–25 school year marked the first full year of On Point’s countywide CoSer with the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi BOCES), the organization’s first multi-district cooperative service agreement. The agreement made it possible for school districts throughout Oswego County to bring On Point’s college and career advising directly to their students.

Through the partnership, On Point advisors worked weekly with students at Altmar-Parish-Williamstown, Hannibal, Mexico, and CiTi BOCES, with regular visits to Fulton and Pulaski. Advisors also offered evening FAFSA workshops for students and families. In neighboring Cayuga County, On Point continued its work with students in Auburn and surrounding communities.

Altogether, On Point served 319 students from Oswego County and 182 from Cayuga

County during the year, including 83 new students from Oswego County and 95 new students from Cayuga County. Reaching students in their own schools and communities is particularly important in rural areas, where distance and transportation can make accessing services more difficult.

The expansion has also reinforced the importance of addressing the particular challenges rural students face. Transportation can limit access to college visits, internships, employment, and other opportunities. Students may live far from a college campus or have fewer nearby employers offering career-related experience. By placing advisors in local schools, On Point can begin addressing these challenges earlier and help students identify realistic paths to college, training, and careers.

More about Iz:



On Point Advisor Cielle Tovey (right) speaks with students at CiTi BOCES.



Iz Moxley

Iz Moxley Puts Science to Work

At SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, biotechnology student Iz Moxley combined classroom learning with research and hands-on experience.

At ESF, Iz worked as an academic researcher, contributing to genome-sequencing projects and laboratory research focused on antibiotic resistance and microbial systems. He co-authored a peer-reviewed genome announcement published through the American Society for Microbiology, gaining experience in research methodology, revision, and data integrity.

Through an On Point-sponsored internship at CocoJune in Greene, New York, Iz gained hands-on experience in a quality-assurance

laboratory, helping prepare him for the transition from college to the workforce. His work included environmental monitoring, clean-room sampling, and product culturing and analysis.

Since graduating from ESF, Iz has put that experience to work as a bioanalyst at Quality Chemical Laboratories in Wilmington, North Carolina, building on his background in microbiology and quality assurance.

Looking back on the support he received from On Point's Oswego County team throughout college, Iz said, "It's very helpful and comforting to know that you have that kind of meaningful support behind you."



Shanté White at her University at Buffalo commencement

From On Point Student to Pediatric Anesthesiologist

When people hear that I'm a pediatric anesthesiologist, they often assume that my journey was straightforward, that I always knew what I wanted to do and that I simply worked hard and got here.

But the truth is, my story is much more complicated than that.

I grew up with limited resources, and from a young age, I understood that education could become the path to a different future. One day in middle school, during a difficult moment, I found myself sitting in my guidance counselor's office. After listening to some of the challenges I was facing, she said something that changed my life forever. She told me that if I wanted a different future, education was the path forward.

From that day on, I approached school differently. I worked harder, my grades improved, and opportunities started opening up. In high school, I excelled academically and on the track team. I won city championships in shot put and discus, competed at the state level, and eventually

earned a scholarship that helped pay for college.

But while scholarships got me into college, On Point for College helped me succeed there. And there is a difference.

I was introduced to On Point through one of my high school advisors. Through On Point, I visited the University at Buffalo, which would become my home for the next ten years.

When I arrived on campus, I quickly realized that getting accepted into college and succeeding in college are two very different things. I needed things many students take for granted, and On Point helped provide them. I needed sheets. I needed blankets. I needed clothes. I needed a pillow. I even needed an alarm clock.

To some people, those may seem like small things. But when you're a first-generation college student trying to build a future and you don't have the resources for even the basics, those things matter.

What I didn't realize at the time was that On Point was giving me much more than supplies. They were giving me confidence. They were giving me stability. And they were giving me something every student needs: people who believed in me.

Throughout college, On Point continued to support me. They helped pay for summer courses I needed for medical school. They gave me the first laptop I ever owned. They checked on me. They encouraged me. They made me feel like I wasn't doing this alone.

One of those people was Sam Rowser. To me, Sam was much more than someone who worked for On Point. He was a mentor. He was someone I trusted. During those long drives back and forth to Buffalo, we would talk about school, family, life, and all the challenges I was facing. Whenever I hit an obstacle, Sam never made me feel like I had to face it alone.

I remember one day during medical school feeling overwhelmed by the endless expenses: board exams, study materials, travel, and interview costs. I told Sam how stressful it all felt.

From that point on, every time I called Sam, he asked me the same question: "What do you need?"

And time and time again, On Point answered that question. They helped with board exams. They helped with study materials. They helped with travel. They helped remove barriers.

And that's what On Point does. They remove barriers. Not because students lack talent. Not because they lack determination. But because sometimes success comes down to



Shanté with Sam Rowser

whether someone has support at exactly the moment they need it.

Today, I have completed medical school, residency, and fellowship. I serve as a pediatric anesthesiologist and faculty member at the University of Rochester.

People often congratulate me on my accomplishments. But I didn't get here alone. My guidance counselor played a role. My teachers played a role. My coaches played a role. My mentors played a role. And On Point for College played a major role.

Sometimes I wonder what my life would have looked like if someone hadn't introduced me to this organization. What if nobody had taken me on that first college visit? What if nobody had helped furnish my dorm room? What if nobody had paid for those summer courses? What if nobody had helped me with board exams and interview expenses? What if nobody had answered the phone and asked, "What do you need?"

I honestly don't know where I'd be today.

But I do know this: Every student deserves the opportunity to discover what they're capable of. Sometimes all it takes is one person who believes in them. Sometimes it takes a mentor. Sometimes it takes a scholarship. And sometimes it takes an organization like On Point for College.

People sometimes ask me how I could ever repay an organization like On Point. The truth is, I can't. You can never fully repay the people who changed your life.

"The best you can do is stand where I'm standing and tell others that their generosity matters."

When you support On Point, you're doing far more than paying for supplies. You're helping students stay in school. You're helping them overcome obstacles. You're helping them become teachers, engineers, nurses, business leaders, and yes, even physicians.

Most importantly, you're helping young people believe that their future can be bigger than their circumstances.

I stand as one example of what is possible when people choose to invest in a young person's future.

Thank you for believing in young people. Thank you for believing in On Point for College. And thank you for changing lives, because you changed mine.

Shanté White, MD

On Point for College Alumna



Shanté White, MD, with a colleague

More about Shanté:



More about Nan:



More student stories:



Healing Forward



Nan Han, MD

Nan Han has always dreamed of becoming a doctor, but she couldn't get there alone.

When she was eight years old, her family fled war in Myanmar, spending the next three years in a refugee camp in Thailand before being resettled in Utica.

Nan joined On Point for College in 2015 while still a student at Proctor High School. On Point helped her navigate financial aid and provided financial support for necessities like books and school supplies. With that support, she eventually earned degrees from Mohawk Valley Community College and SUNY Polytechnic Institute before earning her medical degree from the American University of Antigua in 2025.

Along the way, she also received a scholarship from On Point alumni Bikash and Kumari Regmi. The Regmis, Bhutanese

refugees who have built careers in healthcare, established the scholarship in 2020 to help other refugee students pursue healthcare careers. Nan became an early recipient.

Since completing her medical degree, Nan has returned to Utica. While preparing to begin her residency, she is working as a maternal health care manager, helping expectant and new mothers connect with care and community services. The role allows her to draw on her medical training while serving as a link between the healthcare system and a community she cares deeply about.

“The students have dreams. They just need someone in their corner to support them.”

But it's not just her medical training that she's brought home. Remembering the support she received as a student, Nan has created the Healing Forward Scholarship for students from refugee and underrepresented backgrounds pursuing STEM or healthcare careers. Among its first recipients was On Point student Sabah Haji, who earned her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology from SUNY Poly in May 2026.

For Nan, investing in these students is also an investment in the community's future:

“These will be the very people that will take care of you. These will be the very people that will take care of the next generation.”

The support Nan received helped make her own journey possible. Through Healing Forward, she is doing the same for the next generation.

2026 Board of Directors

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Joan Fiora Blanchfield	Retired, Utica University
H. Tom Clark	McDonald's Franchise Owner
Frank Giotto	Founder and President, Fiber Instrument Sales
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Sonia Martinez	Founder and President, Mohawk Valley Latino Association
John Zogby	Founder, Zogby International and Zogby Analytics



2026 On Point for College Team

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Samuel Rowser	Executive Director
Chrissie Rizzo	Deputy Executive Director
Kevin Marken	Utica Director
Theresa Hadlich	Office Manager
Mike Held	Bookkeeper
James Kiki	General Accountant
Adam Stuper	Data Analyst

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Katayoon Faraji	Marketing Manager
Barrie Gewanter	Grants Officer
Courtney Black	Development Associate

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Carla DeShaw	Associate Director of Rural Initiatives
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Ruthie Baah	Advisor Utica
Cassandra Barker	Advisor Oswego County
Ron Chesbrough	Advisor Oswego County
Alicia Colangelo	Advisor Syracuse
Daniel Cribb	Advisor Utica
Jennifer Engram	Career Services Advisor Utica
Brianna Hall	Front Desk Manager
Fred Kadic	Advisor Utica
Michele Parks	Career Services Advisor Syracuse
Stephanie Parks	Advisor Syracuse
Cielle Tovey	Lead Coordinator
Jeffrey Zalewski	Advisor Cayuga County

Project RISE in Syracuse

Yolanda Seegars	Director
Charles Jackson	Participant Navigation Coordinator

Growth & Opportunity / Project RISE in Utica

Sahrena White	Program Manager
Jaedyn Lalonde	Advisor Utica



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