# HUMAN SERVICES

## 01 SHEKOLI

We are pleased to announce that you can subscribe to our newsletters! Simply complete a short registration and select Human Services Division Newsletter.

Every quarter you will get an email with our newsletter attached.

**To register, go to https://oneida-nsn.gov/subscribe/ or scan the QR code:**

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ONEIDA

RAFFLE PRIZES

FREE ENTRY

## HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

# RESOURCE FAIR

## AT ONEIDA HOTEL

**THURSDAY, JULY 30**

**3:00PM –6:00PM**

## FEATURED DEPARTMENTS

AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES - CHILD SUPPORT
- CULTURAL HERITAGE -
ECONOMIC SUPPORT/477 PROGRAM -
FAMILY FITNESS - FAMILY SERVICES -
PUBLIC TRANSIT - RECREATION - SEOTS -
VETERAN SERVICES

**HSD MISSION:**
To provide holistic support for the wellbeing of our community

**HSD VISION:**
An engaged & empowered healthy community built on Tsi?Niyukwaliho T^
instilled with respect, education & self-awareness

# Link to Seed Ceremony work packet

# SEED CEREMONY

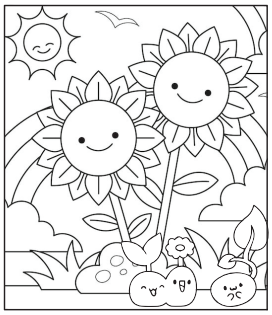
Did you know the humans give thanks for us?

Yes, they celebrate the Seed Ceremony.

Yippee! Tell me more!

The Seed Ceremony is to give thanks to the seeds whose power provides food for the people.

TwanΛhayΛ? (Seed Dance)
The Seed Dance Ceremony is an honoring of all plant life. It is done prior to anybody planting. KayΛtowa·nΛ́ (The Peach Stone Game) is played and seeds are used to bet. The men play against the women. Fifty beans are used as counters. After the game is over, Ohstowa?kówa (the Great Feather Dance) is done to commemorate the purpose of this ceremony. Kunukwehnéha (the ways of the woman) and Osahé·ta? Aotilʌ·ná (the Bean Dance) are then done.



## TwanΛhayΛ?
We bet the seeds, Seed Ceremony

- Kanehelatúksla - Thanksgiving Address - Opening
- An overview of the days event will be given
- One man will be selected to collect seeds from the women. One man is selected to collect seeds from the men.
- One woman is selected to keep score. One man is selected to keep score.
- One woman is selected to hold the beans. One man is selected to hold the beans.
- The two men who collected the seeds match them up. A bundle of a man's seeds, are matched up with a similar sized women's bundle.
- KayΛtowa·nΛ́ - the Peachstone game begins with men versus women.
- The two men who collected the seeds will chose who's going to play first and thereafter)
- The game is won by the team that collects all of the beans. The speaker will announce the winner and then give the introduction for Ohstowa?kó· - the Great Feather Dance.
- One round of Ohstowa?kó· is sung and everyone dances.
- The story of the Three Sisters - áhsʌ na?tekutʌhnu·téle? is told.
- The Kunukwehnéha né· olʌnaka·yú·se? (Old Women's Songs) are sung by the men and all the women dance.
- Singers sing the Osahé·ta? aotilʌ·ná·, Bean Dance. Everyone dances.
- A speaker stands to say the Closing - Takwanuhwela·tú·.
- We have a feast. Everyone sets out their plates and each family distributes their dish in a counter clockwise direction around the longhouse. Each clan brings a pot of cornsoup that is set near the fire for everyone to help themselves and enjoy.

# STRAWBERRY DRINK RECIPE

INGREDIENTS:
- Strawberries (awΛ́hihte)
- Maple Syrup (olutákli?)
- Water (ohne·kánus)

INGRIEDIENT AMOUNTS

| Servings | Strawberry (lbs.) | Water (cups) | Maple Syrup (cups) | Total (cups) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0.15 | 1/2 | 1/8 | 1 |
| 12 | 1.88 | 6 1/4 | 1 | 12 |
| 25 | 3.75 | 12 1/2 | 2 | 25 |

ADD INGRIEDIENTS TOGETHER AND BLEND WELL

## TwanΛhayΛ?
## We bet the seeds
Seed Ceremony

* Kanehelatúksla - Thanksgiving Address - Opening
* Words will be said, how to play the KayΛtowa·nΛ́ or Peachstone game. Also what will take place on this day.
* One man will be selected to collect seeds from the women.
* One man is selected to collect seeds from the men.
* One woman is selected to keep score. One woman is selected to hold the beans.
* One man is selected to keep score. One man is selected to hold the beans.
* Seeds are matched up. Similar amounts of seeds, mens' to womens' are matched up.
* KayΛtowa·nΛ́ - the Peachstone game - men vs. women - 50 beans (it's up to the two men who collected the seeds to chose who's going to play first and thereafter)
* After the game is won, the speaker will announce the winner and then give the introduction for Ohstowa?kó· - the Great Feather Dance.
* Ohstowa?kó· 1X
* The story of the Three Sisters - áhsʌ na?tekutʌhnu·téle? is told at this time.
* Kunukwehnéha né· olʌnaka·yú·se? (Old Women's Songs)
* Osahé·ta? aotilʌ·ná· - Bean Dance
* Closing - Takwanuhwela·tú·
* Feast

## 03 FAMILY FITNESS

## 04 SEOTS

# Highlights from Family Strengthening Month April 2026

## *Family Strengthening Month Activities Calendar*

**The Oneida Family Services team put together a Family Strengthening Month calendar that provides families ideas on activities they can do together to encourage connection, resilience, and fun!**

**Oneida Family Services team participated in 'Wear Blue Wednesdays' as a visual reminder of our team's commitment to strengthening our community through family-centered connection and support.**

**Oneida Nation**
**Family Strengthening Month**
Activities you can do together to strengthen families and prevent child abuse & neglect.

**April 2026**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ONEIDA | | | 1 Wear Blue Wednesday Community Tobacco Burning at Kanikuhliyo Family Center 9:00 am | 2 Full Moon Go outside & look at the moon. Give thanks to her, Grandmother Moon | 3 Color Eggs or bake something | 4 Spring Cleaning! Declutter and donate any unused items you no longer need |
| 5 Visit a relative / elder | 6 Schedule your child's next well child exam / eye exam / dental exam | 7 Check in with your child on how school is going | 8 Wear Blue Wednesday Talk about what helps you feel safe | 9 Play Rock/Paper/Scissors: Decide as a family what the winner gets | 10 Family talk: Share a story about your favorite family memory | 11 Family movie night |
| 12 Thank a veteran | 13 Teach your child the importance of brushing & flossing | 14 Take a moment to notice the birds chirping in the morning | 15 Wear Blue Wednesday Share who you can go to if you feel unsafe | 16 Do something nice for a neighbor | 17 Family talk: Share what your dream job is | 18 Family game night, kids' choice |
| 19 Take a family walk outside | 20 Teach your child something that your parents taught you | 21 Tell your child what makes you proud of them | 22 Wear Blue Wednesday Earth Day: Do something nice for Mother Earth | 23 Grocery shop: remember the perimeter of the store is healthier | 24 Family talk: Practice saying "I love you" in Oneida language Kunluhkwa (Guh-no-lon-kwa) | 25 Family Dinner at the table with no devices |
| 26 Lounge day: rest and rejuvenate as a family | 27 Find a way to make each other laugh | 28 Take a silly family selfie pic | 29 Wear Blue Wednesday Family Strengthening Celebration at ONES SP-TP | 30 Talk about what makes you a strong family | | |

Kanikuhliyo Family Center
2640 W. Point Rd., Green Bay, WI

Oneida Nation Elementary School (ONES/Turtle School)
N7225 Seminary Rd., Oneida, WI

## Community Tobacco Burning (Wednesday, April 1st, 2026) at the Ka^nikuhliyo Family Center

On Wednesday, April 1st 2026, Oneida Family Services kicked off Family Strengthening month with a Community Tobacco Burning led by Larry "Sonny" Hill, to provide the space and time to honor our commitment to our Oneida Core Value through prayer in the Oneida language.

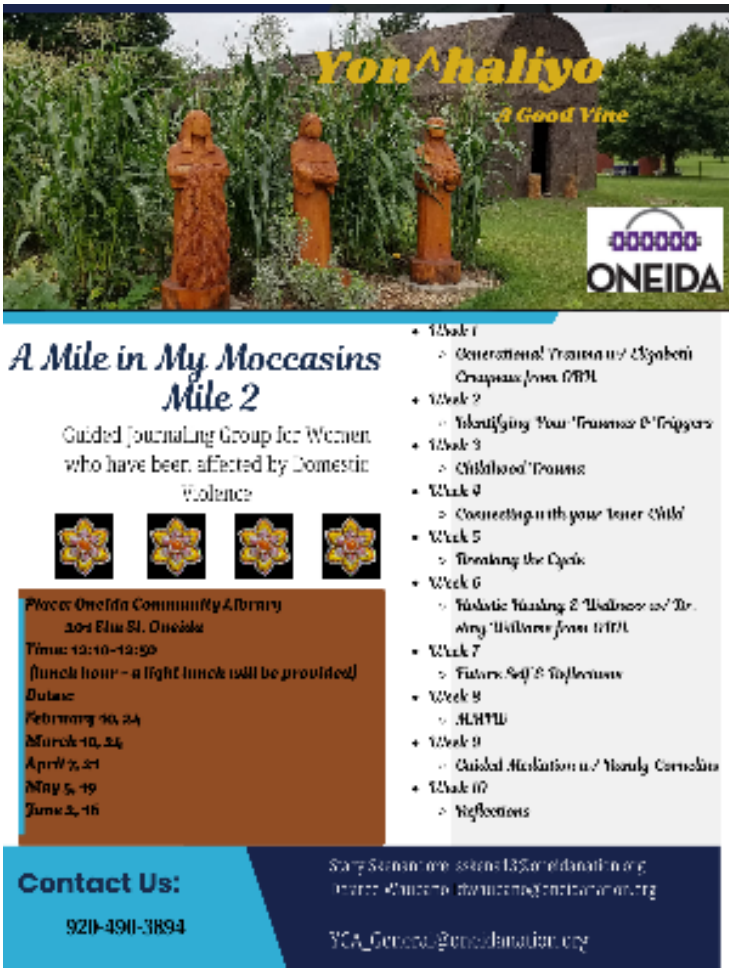
## Family Strengthening Celebration (Wednesday, April 29th, 2026) at the Oneida Turtle School

Oneida Family Services hosted a Family Strengthening Celebration in honor of Family Strengthening Month to provide the community with an opportunity to come together to have fun and connect! This event was made possible in collaboration with the Oneida School System, Child Support, Economic Support, Birth to Six-Early Intervention, Head Start, Behavioral Health, Family Fitness Center, Family and Child Education (FACE), Veteran Services, Health Promotion Disease Prevention, and Maternal Child Health Services. Yaw^ko to our collaborators and sponsors for this event! And yaw^ko to our community for coming together to spread joy and connection.

## Highlights from Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April 2026)

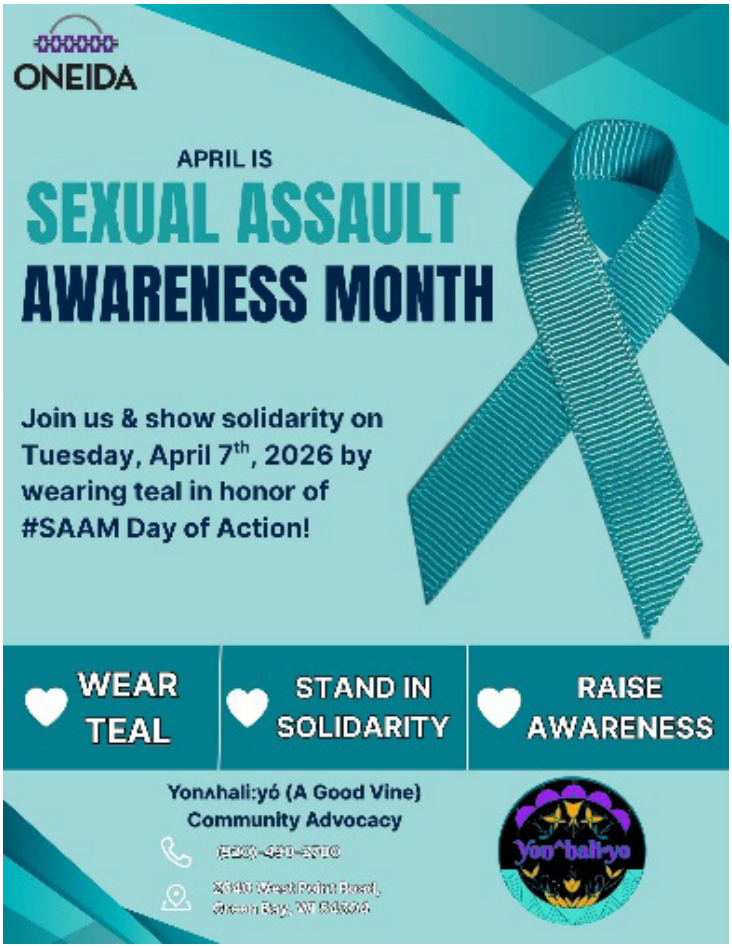
## A Mile in my Moccasins Mile 2 (Tue, April 7th & 21st)

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Yonʌ́hali:yó Community Advocacy hosted a guided journaling group called, 'A Mile in my Moccasins Mile 2', for women who have been affected by domestic violence on Tuesday, April 7th and Tuesday, April 21st at the Oneida Community Library featuring the topics of 'Breaking the Cycle' and 'Holistic Healing & Wellness' with a visit from Dr. Amy Williams from the Oneida Behavioral Health Center.




## SAAM Day of Action 2026 (Tue, April 7th)

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Oneida Family Services team showed their solidarity on SAAM Day of Action on Tuesday, April 7th by wearing teal.



## 4th Annual Paint the Town Teal (Wed, April 8th & Thur, April 9th)

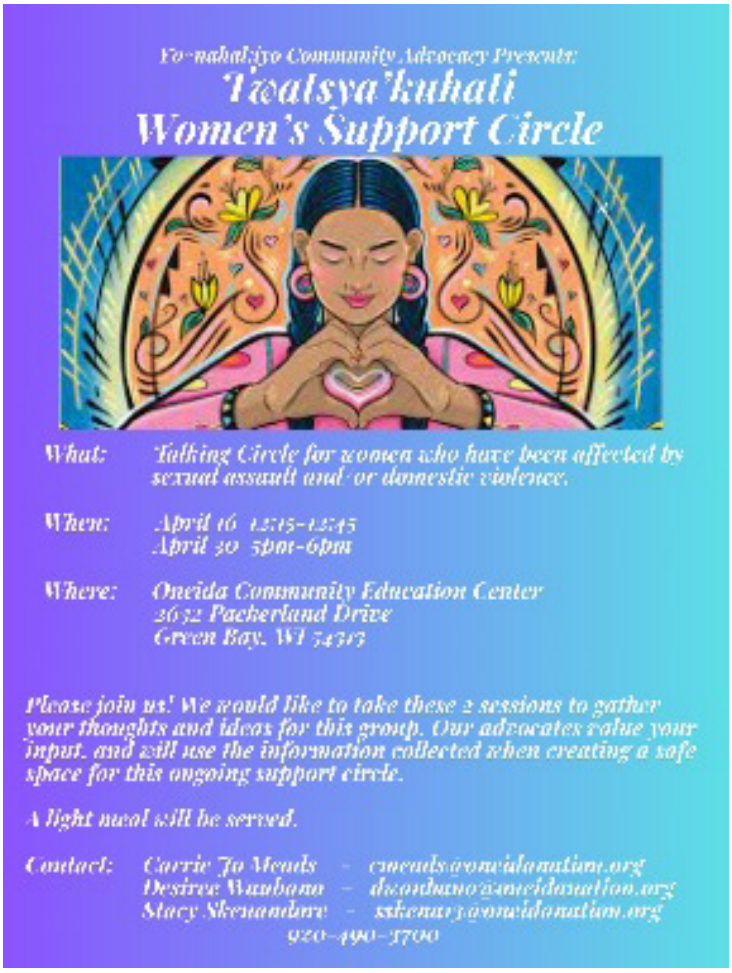
On Wednesday, April 8th and Thursday, April 9th, Yonʌ́hali:yó Community Advocacy in partnership with Family Services Sexual Assault Center, Wise Women Gathering Place, and We All Rise African American Resource Center have combined efforts to spread awareness this April 2026 by facilitating the 4th year of Paint the Town Teal. We are so thankful for everyone involved in the coordination of this project. We are especially grateful to all the businesses and individuals who are showing their solidarity & support in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month! Yaw^ko.

## Sisters Rising: Film Screening & Panel Discussion (Wed, April 22nd)

On the evening of Wednesday, April 22nd, the Yonʌ́hali:yó Community Advocacy in partnership with Reach Counseling and Wise Woman Gathering Place, hosted a film screening and panel discussion for 'Sisters Rising'.

## Tawtsya'kuhati Women's Circle (Wed, April 22nd)

Yonʌ́hali:yó Community Advocacy hosted a women's talking circle on Thursday, April 16th and Thursday, April 30th for women who have been affected by sexual assault and/or domestic violence.




## Bridging Systems for Relative Caregivers Site Visit (Tuesday, April 28th & Wednesday, April 29th, 2026)

In the summer of 2024, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin's Family Services Department was selected as a tribal partner through a competitive process for the NICWA's two-year, intensive Bridging Systems for Relative Caregivers project. The National Indian Child Welfare Association, also known as NICWA, partnered with Oneida Nation Family Services to identify specific goals identified by the department, their partners, and lived experience experts to collaborate across tribal and state government systems to better serve all kinship families, whether they are involved in the child welfare system or not.

Together, we have sought to understand ways to address service barriers, break down silos, and leverage resources to maximize support to our families.

On Tuesday, April 28th & Wednesday, April 29th, 2026, Oneida Family Services hosted a site visit at the Ka^nikuhliyo Family Center with some of the project's partners to showcase their services, programming, and the Oneida culture. This visit also heavily focused on group reflection to better understand the ways in which this project took shape, goal attainment, and the work that still needs to be done to best support our kinship families & our community as a whole. Yaw^ko to all of those who were able to attend & contribute to this project and experience! If you are interested in being apart of this project, please connect with Louise Padron at (920)490-3760.

## NICWA Conference

## National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) 44th Annual Protecting Our Children Conference (Sunday, March 29th – Wednesday, April 1st, 2026)

The Oneida Family Services team and some members from the Bridging Systems project  attended and presented at NICWA's 44th Annual Protecting Our Children Conference in Oklahoma City, OK from Sunday, March 29th – Wednesday, April 1st, 2026. This is the largest national gathering on Native child advocacy issues related to child welfare & well-being, with over 2,000 attendees at this three-day conference. Co-presenters include Louise Padron (Oneida Family Services), Tara Reynon (NICWA), Tsyoshaaht Delgado (Oneida Cultural Heritage), and Rebecca Green-Blanks (Oneida School System).

Oneida Nation Child Support Agency and Family Services are holding the Grandparents as Caregivers Circle starting May 4, 2026.

It will be held the first Monday of each month through August 3, 2026.

The Grandparents as Caregivers Circle offers a safe space to share experiences, receive support and connect with fellow grandparents.

Oneida Nation Caregiver Coordinators are hosting a Caregiver Kiddie Carnival on May 7th, 2026 from 2 – 6pm at the Oneida VFW.

Kick off your summer with a children's carnival featuring kiddie games, tiny prize treasures and more.

Oneida Nation Family Services hosted Family Strengthening Celebration on April 29, 2026. Over the month of April, Oneida Nation Family Services has voiced the importance of Family Strengthening Month, a time dedicated to highlighting the strengths families draw from to build safe, stable, and nurturing environments for the children in our community.

This celebration is about more than just coming together as a community to have fun, but as a reminder of our mission at Oneida Family Services to serve our community in a manner that strengthens, empowers, and honors our duties to the seventh generation

## Community Events Highlight

We recently wrapped up an informative Maple Syrup Education Workshop, where participants learned about the history, process, and cultural significance of maple syrup production. It was a great opportunity to explore a beloved tradition while gaining hands-on knowledge and sparking meaningful conversation.

Looking ahead, we're excited to host both a Mother's Day and Father's Day cultural-themed project workshop. These upcoming activities will celebrate family, heritage, and appreciation through a creative lens. We look forward to bringing everyone together for a meaningful experience that honors the important roles parents and caregivers play in our lives.

## Ongoing Co Parenting Workshop

Our Co-Parenting Essentials Workshop provides a positive, supportive environment to build communication skills and gain practical tools for successful co parenting. Feedback has been very encouraging. It is hosted at our agency every month on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, virtually, and there is one monthly off-site location (Oneida CRC, Flying Leaf Community Building, Oneida Library, and more to come).

The Oneida Veterans Services Department is dedicated to providing quality services and assistance in the delivery of entitlements and benefits due to our Nation's veterans and their families. We accomplish this mission by consistently working to improve our processes for filing paperwork, and by learning about and providing resources for veterans throughout the state of Wisconsin. By working in collaboration with various chartered veterans associations within Oneida, the Oneida Veterans Services Department provides community outreach in the forms of weekly Friday morning breakfasts and various Pig Roasts and Booyah events throughout the year.

Our first event of the spring will be the 10th Annual Code Talkers Golf Tournament on May 22nd, hosted by ONVAC. Details below. Next, will be our Memorial Day Services being held on May 25th. As always, the public is welcome to join us as we visit 10 sites, to include Anna John Nursing home and the Oneida Veterans Memorial Wall, and pay our respects to, and honor those who bravely fought for our country. After the services are complete, we will be meeting at Veterans Services for a meal in their honor. Shuttles will be available to bring attendees to the various locations. Only one short month after that and Oneida Veterans Services will be ready to help coordinate our community veterans in bringing in the colors at the 51st Annual Oneida Pow Wow. Pig roasts and Booyah events will be ramping up, as well. Further information on those will be announced as we plan them.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Connor Kestell or Joe Valentino. Or visit: Oneida Nation | Veteran Services and Resources (oneida-nsn.gov)

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Thursday: 7am-4:30pm
Fridays: 6:30am-3pm.

## Upcoming events:

- Annual Code Talkers Golf Tournament- May 22, 2026
- 8 am Flag Raising Ceremony
- 9 am "shotgun" start for 18 holes.
  This will be a blind-draw scramble. Entry fee will be $80. The first 144 paid entries will be able to play. Deadline for payment is May 19th, 2026 at noon. Entry forms are available at the Veterans Services Office located at 134 Riverdale Drive. Sponsors and players can contact John Brueninger or Deke Suri for more information at John: (920) 562-7536 Deke: (920) 445-1972
- Memorial Day Honor Guard Services- May 25, 2026
- 51st Annual Oneida Pow Wow- June 27th -29th, 2026

ONEIDA Community Resource Center

# HSED/GED Bootcamps

April-June 2026

Everyone is welcome!

These workshops are tailored for students enrolled in the HSED program, allowing them to complete a subject in just two days. If you are not part of the program but are eager to join for personal learning, you are more than welcome to sign up!

## Upcoming Learning Schedule

**April 16th & 17th: English Language Arts**
Explore the elements and structures of both non-fiction and fiction stories, along with grammar, usage, and the art of paragraph and essay writing.

**May 7th & 8th: Math**
Dive into the four operations, understand place value, tackle multi-step word problems, and dive into algebra and geometry.

**June 11th & 12th: Social Studies**
Learn about geography, population studies, U.S. history, U.S. government, and the fundamentals of economics.

classes are 10am-4pm

## Sign up today!

Rachel Flom
920-496-5260
rflom@oneidanation.org
2632 Packerland Drive, Green Bay WI 54313

ONEIDA Community Resource Center

# Financial Frenzy

## Secure Your Future

Your financial future is important, and we're here to support you in maximizing it! Join us for an engaging, real-life simulation of receiving your minor's trust fund and discover how to spend it wisely! Lunch will be provided!

**Two dates to choose from:**
**June 23 & 25, 2026**
**10am-1pm**

**Youth Intern Event ONLY!**

- Simulation of Minor's Trust $
- Improved budgeting and savings
- Investing in Your Personal Growth

Mandatory training is required to remain in the youth intern program!

**Phone**
920-496-5260

**Sign up:**
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA9AD2BA4F4C52-63888117-financial#/

# EMPLOYEE *Spotlight*

## ERNEST OBERST

477 Program Manager

Ernest L. Oberst was born on January 8, 1970, in Santa Cruz, California. At the age of four, he and his three younger siblings were removed from their mother's care and placed into foster care, where they remained until being adopted in 1980. Due to unforeseen abuse in the adoptive home, Ernest was emancipated at the age of sixteen. Despite these early challenges, he persevered and graduated from high school in 1988.

Shortly after graduation, Ernest enlisted in the United States Army. He was assigned to the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington. His first combat deployment occurred in 1989 during Operation Just Cause in Panama, where he parachuted onto Rio Hato Airfield, home of Panama's elite Macho de Monte forces. His final combat deployment took place in 2012 in Afghanistan, serving south of Kandahar in the Panjwai District, an area widely known for sustained Taliban activity. Over the course of a 24-year military career, Ernest spent ten years in combat and participated in multiple deployments across Panama, Kosovo, Bosnia, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Many of these assignments involved multiple tours, reflecting sustained operational service.

Following his retirement from the military in 2014, Ernest pursued higher education and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of South Carolina. In 2018, he relocated with his family to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he continued his education at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He also obtained certification as a Substance Use Disorder Counselor through the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

In February 2023, Ernest began working with Oneida Vocational Rehabilitation. He currently serves as the Program Manager for the Oneida Economic Support Services 477 Program, where he continues his commitment to service by supporting individuals and families through employment, rehabilitation, and holistic support systems.

**FUN FACT: ERNEST CAN'T SIT STILL, HATES TO BE BORED!**

ONEIDA ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Oneida Nation
ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT
PO Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155-0365

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ONEIDA WI 54155
PERMIT NO. 4



# Public Transit
## FY26 QTR 2 Report
### January - March

**Completed Trips**
**10,572**

**New Riders**
**87**

**Trip Denials**
**559**

| Education | Employment | Leisure | Medical |
|---|---|---|---|
| 268 | 1,797 | 7,297 | 1,210 |

### Fleet Update Summary

Exciting News! Our New Mini-Van Has Arrived
The mini-van will support long and medium medical distance trips, offering seating for 6 passengers plus 1 wheelchair to better serve our riders.