



September 11, 2024

To: Exceptional Family Resources (EFR) Partners, and Donors

From: Bruce Drake, EFR CEO, and the EFR Leadership Team

SUBJECT: EFR and ARISE Merge

The Boards of Directors of Exceptional Family Resources (EFR) and ARISE announce their strategic decision to merge the organizations to better serve people with disabilities. Both organizations are committed to delivering person-centered services to ensure that people with disabilities are fully included in our community at work, school and home.

Founded in 1979, ARISE is the designated Independent Living Center for Onondaga, Oswego, Madison and Cayuga counties. It provides more than 50 different programs to people of all ages with all kinds of disabilities, including a mental health diagnosis. ARISE is founded on the Independent Living Philosophy, which recognizes the power of people with disabilities to direct their services and set their goals and requires full inclusion and access. ARISE's affiliate corporation, ARISE at the Farm in Madison County, is widely known for its inclusive recreation programs.

Founded in 1974, EFR is a leader in providing community-based services and supports to people with developmental disabilities. Among its many programs is the thriving Self-Directed program, in which people with developmental disabilities manage their staff and services. EFR enjoys an advocacy foundation because individuals and families are at the core of its origins and ongoing operation. EFR's desire to be an employer of choice is driven by the philosophy that the individuals we support and their families receive timely supports and services in the way that best meets their needs.

"This collaboration will not only maintain but also surpass the highest standards of care for the individuals and families we assist, while also fostering a more robust and secure work environment for our team members," said Bruce Drake, CEO of EFR.

"ARISE and EFR are incredibly well-matched," said Tania Anderson, CEO of ARISE. "We both believe in the power of people with disabilities. Together, we will be stronger and better able to serve our community."

Upon securing legal approvals, EFR will be the surviving corporation governed by a Board combining the contributions of each organization's current Board of Directors with Bruce Drake taking on the role of CEO.

For more information, visit our websites: [ariseinc.org](http://ariseinc.org) and [contactefr.org](http://contactefr.org).