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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The Otsego ReUse Center Sends Off 18,000 Pounds of Polystyrene for ReUse**

*The Otsego ReUse Center is a project of The Arc Otsego*

Oneonta, NY – September 8, 2021– The Otsego ReUse Center, located at 23 Duane Street in Oneonta, reached a momentous mark in the efforts to preserve our environment and keep unnecessary items out of the waste stream.

The ReUse Center opened its doors in 2017, taking in donations of large and small items for repurposing and reduction of items in our waste stream – you can really find anything there, from books to couches, coffee pots to lightbulbs, Valentine’s décor to Christmas. In 2019, The Otsego ReUse Center began efforts to take in recycling of polystyrene through a densifier. The densifier processes expanded polystyrene, widely known as Styrofoam (Dow Chemical’s trademarked EPS foam product), which is commonly used for packaging consumer products, to-go restaurant containers, fish boxes, insulation panels, etc. With a dedicated room for the densifier, the staff began processing drop-offs; one brick of densified polystyrene weighs approximately 40 pounds.

The ReUse Center has received a constant flow of polystyrene from individuals and businesses in the Otsego County community. When densified, the ReUse Center can compact polystyrene to as much as a 60:1 ratio. One pallet of densified polystyrene is approximately 1,000 pounds, and on September 7, 2021, The ReUse Center loaded an 18-wheeler from Bidwell, LLC out of Whitney Point with 18,000 pounds of polystyrene that has been processed and ready to put back into use. The staff at the Otsego ReUse Center and The Arc Otsego are very proud to be a part of such a needed undertaking. With global warming and the climate crisis at the forefront of the news, we are excited to be able to do our part locally and provide this service to the greater community.

The dedication of the ReUse Center crew who processed all the donations over the last two and a half years has had a great impact on conservation efforts. While this is just a small step in the ReUse industry, knowing that the agency has had a hand in keeping this material out of the landfills has made an impact.

If you would like to drop off items at the Otsego ReUse Center, from household goods to polystyrene to be recycled, they are open from 9am to 5pm, seven days a week, and are located at 23 Duane Street. Please see a ReUse Center staff member to process your donation.

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The Arc Otsego, a chapter of The Arc New York, is a private, not-for-profit organization offering comprehensive, community-based services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Otsego County, NY. For more information, visit [www.arcotsego.org](http://www.arcotsego.org) or call 607-432-8595.