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Community Action Celebrates 50 Years of Service

People Helping People: Celebrating 50 Years of Community Action opens April 3, 2014 at Cayuga Museum of History and Art

AUBURN, NEW YORK, March 20, 2015 – Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. (CSCAA) is celebrating 50 years of service this year. To commemorate this milestone, the Agency is partnering with Cayuga Museum of History and Art in Auburn to host an illustrated history of Community Action over the last half century. The Museum will feature a first floor exhibit *People Helping People: Celebrating 50 Years of Community Action* from April 3 through May 24, 2015. A First Friday opening reception will be held April 3, 2015 from 5 – 8 pm. The Agency will host a 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Museum May 7, 2015 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Both events are free and open to the public.

People Helping People: Celebrating 50 Years of Community Action tells the story of Community Action in Cayuga and Seneca Counties over the last half century. This exhibit presents the national philosophy and circumstances leading up to the War on Poverty and the birth of Community Action, and showcases the evolution of Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency in response to evolving needs and priorities. Local and national themes of hunger, housing, education, employment and training, health, domestic violence and community organizing are examined. *People Helping People* explores the Agency's influence in creating the present day landscape of organizations working together to help those in need.

Food pantry shelving will be set up throughout the duration of the Exhibit. Patrons are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to the Museum to help “stock the shelves”. All donated food items will be redistributed through CSCAA's food pantries located at 89 York Street in Auburn and 23 Center Street in Waterloo.

CSCAA Executive Director Laurie Piccolo stated, “Community Action has grown from a staff of three in 1965 to over 125 employees today serving two counties and over 5000 customers annually through multiple self-sufficiency programs. We are grateful to Cayuga Museum and our sponsors, Mack Studios and Welch Allyn, for providing an opportunity to showcase the growth and good work of the Agency and the changing needs of our community over time.”

Cayuga Museum Executive Director Eileen McHugh stated, “This collaboration is just the type of thing a regional museum like ours does so well – putting together and sharing the story of an organization that has done a tremendous amount of good and helped shape the community we live in today.”

The Cayuga Museum, located at the corner of Washington and Genesee Streets in Auburn, is open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5:00 pm. Admission is typically \$5.00; Museum members and children 12 and under are free. For more information please visit the Museum's website at <http://cayugamuseum.org>. To learn more about the Agency, please visit the website at <http://www.cscaa.com>.

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit that was incorporated in 1965 through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, to fight the war against poverty locally. The Agency serves both Cayuga and Seneca Counties, with a staff of more than 125 employees. The mission of Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. is to respectfully assist people to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through direct services, education, and community partnerships.

Cayuga Museum of History and Art was founded in 1936; its mission is to provide a forum for the public to realize, interact with and appreciate Cayuga County's shared past and unfolding present to help shape a better future. The Museum presents changing exhibitions, public programs, and serves hundreds of researchers annually on three floors of the historic Willard-Case Mansion. The Museum cares for thousands artifacts, archives and photographs from Cayuga County and the Finger Lakes region as well as the complete archives and collections of the Case Research Lab, where Theodore Case invented the first commercially successful system of sound on film.

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