

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc.



People Helping People Help Themselves

2011-2012
ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Executive Director



“The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own.” ~ Benjamin Disraeli

The message of this year’s Annual Report is **People Helping People Help Themselves**, which is what Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. (CSCAA) is all about! Every day, I observe and listen to how CSCAA’s employees and volunteers help our customers to realize their individual strengths and interests and to achieve their personal goals.

The success of our efforts would not be possible without support and collaboration from numerous local, state and federal partners, including government, nonprofit service providers, private foundations, and local businesses. To help guide our efforts, we finalized our 2012-2016 Strategic Plan in March 2012. The plan focuses on our Customers, the Community and our Agency and will guide many of our initiatives in the coming years.

*Most Sincerely,
Laurie A. Piccolo*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top Row: Greg Hinman, Chairperson; Tom House, Vice Chairperson; Burt Taber; Bonnie Logue, Treasurer; Joan Jayne; Nelsa Selover, Secretary. Bottom Row: Caroline Greene; Tammy Sunderlin; Kathy Lipfert; Vijay Mital. Absent: Barbara Lamphere; John Nichols; Mark Pinchak.

People Helping People Help Themselves



Our Mission

The mission of the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. is to respectfully assist people to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through direct services, education, and community partnerships.

Our Vision

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc.'s vision is to be recognized for its:

- Commitment to empowering those seeking assistance to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency
- Organizational excellence and continued improvement working with employees, community, and partners.

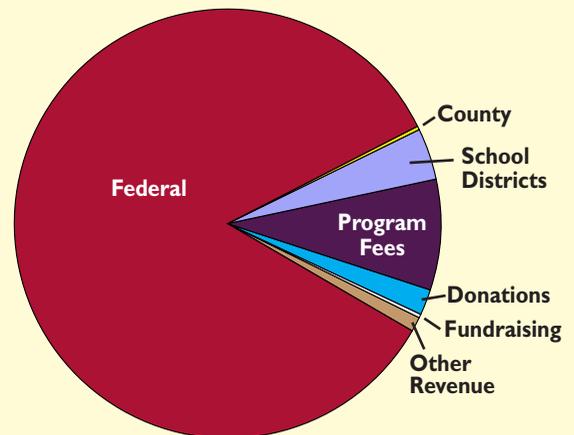
Financials

Financials presented below represent CSCAA's 2011/12 fiscal year ending July 31, 2012. Total revenues declined \$518,808 (approximately 7%) from the prior year due primarily to loss of federal stimulus funding for Energy Services and loss of state TASA funding.

Source of Funds

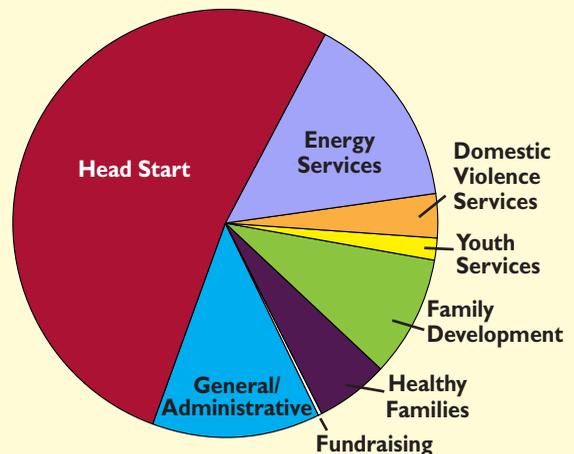
Federal*	\$5,773,309	84.44%
County	\$ 10,000	0.15%
School Districts	\$ 258,363	3.78%
Program Fees	\$ 574,916	8.41%
Donations	\$ 127,220	1.86%
Fundraising	\$ 29,682	0.43%
Other Revenue	\$ 63,452	0.93%
Total	\$6,836,942	100.0%

*Federal funding includes pass-through funds from State, County and City.



Use of Funds

Head Start	52.2%
Energy Services	15.0%
Domestic Violence Services	3.4%
Youth Services	1.8%
Family Development	9.0%
Healthy Families	5.6%
Fundraising	0.2%
General and Administrative	12.8%



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION

Supportive Housing for Young Adults

Family Development launched the Supportive Housing Program for Young Adults, which offers case management and transitional housing services for homeless young adults ages 18-25 for up to 24 months. The program provides a safe, stable environment where young adults can hone their skills and work on such goals as completing their education, obtaining job readiness skills and gaining employment. This program is supported through NYS Office of Temporary Disability Assistance, Cayuga Community Fund, Cayuga County Homeless Task Force, Rescue Mission, Cayuga Counseling Services and Cayuga County Health & Human Services.

Transitional Housing Assistance Program

Domestic Violence Services launched the Transitional Housing Assistance Program, which provides housing and case management services to victims of domestic violence who are homeless due to fleeing an abusive partner. Participants are linked with a Housing Specialist who helps locate housing; provides financial assistance including security deposits and rental assistance for up to 24 months; provides case management focused on long-term self-sufficiency; and assists with employment, education, transportation, safety planning, court accompaniment and advocacy. This program is supported through U.S. Department of Justice and Auburn Housing Authority.

A Sustainable and Collaborative Approach to Hunger Relief

CSCAA launched this food security project in collaboration with nine other food pantries and soup kitchens in the County. Funds were used in part to construct a greenhouse at Cayuga Community College in Auburn, which is now used to grow fresh produce year-round for area food pantries. This ensures that low income people have access to fresh vegetables even during the more expensive winter months. This project is supported through the Walmart Foundation, Cayuga Community College and Cayuga County Food Providers Network.



Garden to Table Project

Early Childhood Development expanded the Garden-to-Table Project, which enabled children and families to experience a complete growing cycle. Children planted a variety of seeds in the classroom over the winter and then transplanted seedlings to low tunnel gardens in early spring. Fresh vegetables were cultivated, harvested, prepared and consumed by the children as they grew, and were made available to Head Start families and food pantry customers. This project is supported by the NYS Head Start Association.

Empower NY

With increased funding, Energy Services expanded its fee-for-service energy efficiency program EmPower NY, which helps low-income households reduce energy use and costs through such measures as upgraded lighting, refrigerator and freezer replacements, insulation and air sealing. Health and safety measures are also addressed as appropriate. This program is funded by NYS Energy Research Development Authority and administered by Honeywell International, Inc.

Agency Highlights

- 13,055 volunteer hours were donated to Agency initiatives
- 12,541 individuals received emergency food assistance
- 5,056 units of clothing were provided to customers
- 4,953 hours of staff training were completed
- 1,535 bed nights of emergency shelter were provided to victims of domestic violence
- 772 volunteers donated their time to the Agency
- 429 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved parenting skills
- 371 infants and children obtained age-appropriate immunizations, medical and dental care
- 349 domestic violence hotline calls were handled
- 231 families received car seats and installation training
- 200 housing units received energy efficiency improvements
- 174 individuals received rent, security deposits or mortgage assistance
- 172 four year old children were developmentally readied for Kindergarten
- 161 parents and adults learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills
- 161 individuals received case management
- 158 individuals received utility assistance
- 146 victims of domestic violence received non-residential services
- 125 three year old children participated in preschool activities to develop school readiness skills
- 80 individuals obtained safe, affordable housing
- 80 youth demonstrated increased skills needed for school success
- 78 community partnerships were forged to advance Agency initiatives
- 63 youth improved their social and emotional development
- 56 individuals received emergency shelter
- 42 victims of domestic violence obtained orders of protection, custody and/or support
- 26 youth obtained the skills/competency required for employment

After a lengthy planning process, CSCAA adopted a four-year strategic plan in Winter 2012. The plan includes three major goals: helping customers to achieve self-determined growth and development results; encouraging community members to invest in improving conditions in which low-income people live; and insuring that Agency staff and board members have resources and expertise needed to be effective.



VOLUNTEERISM



During the reporting year, nearly 800 volunteers donated over 13,000 hours of their time to help with Agency initiatives. BOCES students again volunteered at Free Clothing as part of a service learning project. Auburn School District Administrators helped to weed, water, and harvest the Head Start Garden. Dozens volunteered for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Wear Purple Day. Others helped with clerical and office duties. To better manage volunteer opportunities, CSCAA established an unpaid Volunteer Coordinator position in September 2012 to serve as a liaison between department heads and volunteers. Retiree and volunteer Elsie Bowen was asked to fill this role. Since then, the Agency has taken many more steps to organize and lend structure to its Volunteer Program.

Partnerships...at the heart of everything we do!

- During the reporting period, Early Childhood Development worked with East Hill Medical to host an on-site dental clinic at Site II.
- CSCAA partnered with the Cayuga County Food Pantry Providers Network to secure \$50,000 from the Wal-Mart Foundation. Funds were used to construct a greenhouse at Cayuga Community College for the purpose of planting and growing vegetables to fight hunger locally. The fresh produce will be distributed through participating food pantries countywide.
- CSCAA's Seneca Programs participated with other human services agencies, area churches, financial institutions and County Department of Human Services on Seneca County United Way's Income Solution Committee to promote financial stability and independence among working families. Services include financial education, VITA (free tax preparation), referrals for first time homeowners, and outreach in rural areas.
- Energy Services continued its collaboration with Cayuga County Homsite Development Corp. to leverage weatherization funds with rehab dollars. This partnership takes a "whole house" approach to comprehensively address code, health, safety and energy conservation issues within the County's aged and often poorly maintained low-income housing units.
- Domestic Violence Services worked with over 75 partners to raise awareness during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, including businesses, school districts, law enforcement, courts, health care agencies, Cayuga County and the City of Auburn. Activities included taping a purple line down Genesee Street in downtown Auburn, hanging purple lights and purple ribbons throughout the City, turning the City Hall Bell Tower purple, and hanging program information and other materials in windows, businesses and schools throughout the County. Over 100 individuals attended CSCAA's Wear Purple Day event.

Fundraising

During the 2011/12 fiscal year, CSCAA raised nearly \$30,000 dollars through multiple fundraising activities including new ventures like partnering with Doug's Fish Fry to offer fresh Fish *ToGo!* in Seneca County.

Throughout the months of March and April, the Agency participated in the Feinstein Challenge, a grant program that matches cash and in-kind donations of food to fight hunger locally. During the Challenge, CSCAA solicited donations from staff, local businesses and community members for its food pantries.

The first annual Bike to Benefit CSCAA's Food Pantry was held in May 2012. CSCAA employee and ABATE of Cayuga County event coordinator Carl Harvey organized the 90-mile ride that included over 50 riders and multiple food collection sites. Bins were set up at local Rite-Aids to encourage donations of food and toiletries for the CSCAA food pantry.



For the seventeenth year, the Agency held its premier fundraiser Taste for Community Action in July 2012 at the Auburn Holiday Inn. Over two dozen vendors offered food, wine and beer tastings to hundreds of participants. A silent auction was held, with an original NY Giants football signed by players and coaches commanding the highest bid of the night!

Website Development

CSCAA overhauled its online presence and launched a new website in August 2012. New content includes expanded program and service information, job postings, donation information and key agency documents including the Strategic Plan, Annual Report, and Needs Assessment. The new site also includes an interactive contact form. These changes enhance external communications and help to better inform the community of Agency initiatives.



Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc.

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency is a private, not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1965 through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight the war against poverty locally. CSCAA has grown significantly over the last 45 years and currently employs over 125 people. The Agency's mission is to respectfully assist people to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through direct services, education, and community partnerships. CSCAA administers over twenty programs including Healthy Families, Emergency Services, Homeless Intervention, Head Start/Early Head Start, Domestic Violence Services, Food Pantry, Weatherization, and Supportive Housing for Young Adults.

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