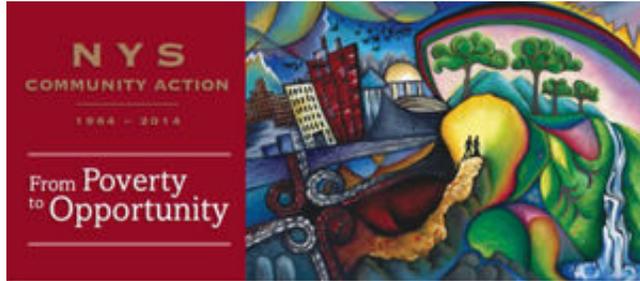




COMMUNITY ACTION

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty

MAY 03, 2014 6:30 AM • [LAURIE PICCOLO | SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN](#)

“Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty

today is a cry.” — Pope Francis

What is poverty? Some view poverty as a symptom of laziness and poor decision-making, a desired state in which poor people on public assistance live better than the hard-working middle class. The World Bank Organization describes poverty in this way: “Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time.” I believe poverty is a lack of resources and loss of potential.

Over the last 50 years, community action agencies have participated in watershed efforts to help people achieve and sustain self-sufficiency, utilizing programs like Head Start, Medicaid and food stamps to lift people out of poverty. Throughout the month of May, we are planning and/or supporting a series of events to raise awareness about poverty and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s unconditional war on poverty. We invite you to join us for one or more of the following events:

May 11-16: Poverty series. The Citizen is undertaking an enterprise multimedia effort to cover poverty issues here in our community. Please participate in online polling and forums during this period at [auburnpub.com](#).

5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14: Open house/ribbon-cutting and Voices of Poverty Speakout. Join us as we celebrate our recent move to 89 York St., Auburn! This event will include tours of our new facility, light refreshments and a brief program including the Voices of Poverty Speakout. This event is free and open to the public. Visit [cscaa.com/awareness.html](#).

9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, May 15: Cayuga County Community-Wide Poverty Simulation. This collaborative event will be held at the West Middle School gymnasium in Auburn, and will provide participants with the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget. By the end of the Simulation, participants will have a deeper understanding of the classic struggles of the poor, will better empathize with people living in poverty, and learn how to help solve this pervasive social problem. This event is free and open

to the public; registration required. <http://btwcc.org>

1 and 8 p.m. Friday, May 16 and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 17: "American Winter" film screening. Produced and directed by Emmy award-winning filmmakers Joe and Harry Gantz, American Winter is a documentary feature film that follows the personal stories of families struggling in the aftermath of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Filmed over the course of one winter in Portland, Oregon, American Winter presents an intimate and emotionally evocative snapshot of the state of our economy as it is playing out in many American families. \$5 advanced purchase, \$6 door. www.auburnpublictheater.org

11 a.m. Sunday, May 18: Abate of Cayuga County Ride for a Cause. Join this motorcycle group on a thrilling ride through the Finger Lakes to raise awareness of hunger here in our community. Bikers will meet at the Ukrainian National Club, 125 Washington St., Auburn at 11 a.m. and depart at noon. The registration fee includes donated nonperishable food items, and will benefit the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency food pantry. Visit facebook.com/abate.cayuga.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 21: Community-Wide Bridges Out of Poverty Training: Strategies for Professionals and Communities. The Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency presents this training, to be held at Springside Inn on May 21. The training provides a comprehensive approach to understanding the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty from the individual to the systemic level. Registration is required; it costs \$15 per person and includes lunch and training materials. Scholarships are available for those in need. Thank you to our sponsors: The Allyn Foundation/Welch Allyn employees, the Kiwanis Club of Auburn, the Springside Inn and Walmart. Visit cscaa.com/awareness.html.