Domestic Violence Services Staff partnered with Cayuga Community College’s Criminal Justice Club to place purple pinwheels on campus in October to help shine a light on domestic violence.
Dear Friends,

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency (CSCAA) celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2015. Our earliest programs including Head Start, Emergency Assistance and Weatherization continue today to provide early childhood development, food and housing assistance. Domestic Violence Services, which started in the late 70’s as an informal network of safe houses within private citizen’s homes, endures as one of our most robust and comprehensive departments.

Community Action continues to play a central role in helping thousands of people in poverty in Cayuga and Seneca Counties improve their lives. I enjoy working at CSCAA because as a Community Action Agency we are not limited to offering designated programs and we can create programming based on the Community’s need at a particular time; whether it be related to hunger relief, family supports, employment training or health insurance. We can assist all individuals, non-restrictive of income guidelines. Also, the employees genuinely care about the work they perform and how they can assist the customer, not only in that moment but long-term.

This past year marked many new beginnings for the Agency. We settled into our new headquarters at 89 York Street in Auburn, and have plans to further expand onsite to consolidate and grow services. The Agency was selected by Cayuga County Department of Social Services to process Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) applications. HEAP provides critical financial assistance to help families and individuals in need heat their homes during the colder months. Over 1000 customers were assisted this winter through HEAP.

The Head Start Backpack Program launched with funding through Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kiwanis Club of Auburn, Cayuga Community Fund, Allyn Foundation, Wegmans and dozens of individuals who donated on #GivingTuesday. This program provides children enrolled at our Early Head Start and Head Start Center in Auburn with nutritious, supplemental food on the weekends. Nearly 140 families are being assisted through the Backpack Program.

The Seneca Emergency Baby Pantry is operating at our Waterloo site with support from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation. The pantry provides baby food, formula, and supplies including diapers to income-eligible families with children up to 24 months old.

Zonta Club of Auburn helped establish a Personal Care Pantry for Women at our headquarters in Auburn that serves income-eligible women and their children.

Our Employment Pathways Program is in full swing and provides case management, job readiness training, tuition assistance, transportation and child care support to unemployed and underemployed individuals to prepare them for success in the workforce.

Our mobile food pantry is up and running through the Volunteer Generation Program; Agency staff and volunteers are delivering food baskets to isolated and home-bound rural residents throughout Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

These new initiatives are helping people every day to mitigate crisis, address emergent needs and move toward stability and self-sufficiency.

We are currently updating our Community Needs Assessment, which will position the Agency for strategic growth in areas that strengthen our core services, close service gaps in the community, and advance our mission to assist people to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency.

We are grateful for your compassion and thank you for your on-going support of the Agency.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Executive Director
DID YOU KNOW?
Community Action Facts

We’ve provided food to those in need since 1969. During the last program year, 3551 food baskets were distributed.

Over 10,000 people live below the poverty line today in Cayuga and Seneca Counties. One-third of those are children.

Over 1,000 people volunteer for the agency throughout the year!

Head Start began in Moravia in 1966 as an experimental program. Today, we operate Early Head Start, Head Start and UPK in partnership with Auburn, Cato, Moravia and Southern Cayuga School Districts, serving over 400 children from birth to age 5.

Our housing programs took off in the early 70’s. Today we provide emergency assistance, HEAP, weatherization, emergency and transitional housing. During the last program year, we provided 230 households with rent, security deposits and/or mortgage assistance, 98 with utility assistance, and 120 with energy efficiency improvements.

We own 5 properties including 4 in Cayuga County and 1 in Seneca County. Here’s how they are used!
• Transitional House for Homeless Adults
• Women’s Safe House for Domestic Violence Victims
• Pre-K School for Children Aged 0-5 Years
• Free Clothing Site Distribution
• Offices for Seneca Programs

WE SERVE OVER 5,000 UNDUPlicated CUSTOMERS ANNually IN BOTH CAYUGA AND SENECA COUNTIES.

WHY COMMUNITY ACTION?

We employ over 140 dedicated staff to help fulfill our mission.

HERE’S WHAT THEY’RE SAYING ABOUT WHY THEY WORK FOR THE AGENCY!

“I work for CSCAA because I feel like the work I do here is important and needed and I cannot think of anything I would rather do. Serving the people of the community is the only thing that makes sense to me.”

Sarah Barnard
Community, Family & Victim Services Director

“I’m using my abilities to help families in crisis whether it’s housing, utilities, food or car seats. I also love getting to know the families I work with on a daily basis.”

Christina Bennett
Case Manager

“This agency started having my back when my daughter was 3 back in 1999 with Headstart, and Domestic Violence in November 2014, and every step and misstep in between. I am proud to be a part of this agency.”

DawnMarie Bresee
Early Childhood Substitute

“I work for this agency because I believe in everything it stands for. People helping people from the heart!”

Candace Goodell
Early Childhood Behavioral Support Specialist
"Every child we serve, is one step away from being a success story... stay humble, work hard, be kind."

Chantell Dale
Early Childhood Assistant Teacher

"I work for CSCAA because I have both lived and seen the growth and change our agency is able to share in with our participants through the variety of services and programs we provide. I believe in the work we do and the hope it brings to our community members from the very young to the very old and all in between."

Malissa Nicolini
Healthy Families Assessment Worker

"CSCAA is a great place to work. Prior to working here I needed help in a few areas and everyone always seemed so nice. Now that I work here and I am behind the scenes, I feel the compassion, the heart, our workers have for people in our community."

Patty Phillips
Human Resources Assistant

"I don’t do human service work, I participate in community action... There’s a difference!"

Emily Tortorici
Disability Resource Coordinator

"Common sense, humanity."

Laura Burghdorf
Emergency Services Advocate
2014/15 Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal*</td>
<td>$5,530,737</td>
<td>73.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Districts</td>
<td>1,140,612</td>
<td>15.24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other local grant revenue</td>
<td>95,427</td>
<td>1.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>517,645</td>
<td>6.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>115,271</td>
<td>1.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>56,278</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>27,654</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$7,483,624</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

2014/15 Use of Funds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Services</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supportive Services</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Services</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Families</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Generations</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015 brought many new funding opportunities to the Agency. 2,159 individuals, businesses and organizations generously contributed over 7,000 donations including monetary gifts, food, clothing, school supplies, household and personal care items! We celebrated 20 years of Taste for Community Action and enjoyed record proceeds from that event. The Purple Tie Event in its 3rd year established itself as a heavily supported fundraiser for Domestic Violence Services. We continued to secure public and private grants to support new and expanded programming. Our Annual Appeal donors supported Agency operations across both counties. We are thankful to live in a community that embraces our mission to respectfully assist people to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency.
Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency commemorated its 50th Anniversary with an Exhibit at the Cayuga Museum of History and Art in Auburn. The Exhibit was sponsored by Mack Studios and Welch Allyn, and showcased the War on Poverty, history of our Agency, causes and symptoms of poverty, spirit of our customers, and generous heart of our community. Early Childhood Development opened its newly renovated library facilities, and planted a Rose of Sharon to commemorate launch of Project Head Start in the White House Rose Garden in 1965. With support from the Allyn Foundation, the Healthy Families Program implemented a new home visiting curriculum Growing Great Kids designed to build protective factors among at risk families.

Early Childhood Development partnered with Bimbo Bakeries through their Good Neighbor Project to resurface the school playground at 1 Brookfield Place in Auburn. Eric Caster of Dirt Works donated excavation services. Sixteen families graduated from the Healthy Families Program. With support from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, Seneca Programs opened an Emergency Baby Pantry at 23 Center Street in Waterloo. Zonta Club of Auburn seeded establishment of a Personal Care Pantry for women in Auburn. The Agency celebrated 20 years of Taste for Community Action.

The food pantry in Auburn received $25,000 through the Walmart Foundation. The mobile food pantry began delivering food to isolated and homebound residents in Cayuga and Seneca Counties, and the Head Start Backpack Program launched with support from multiple funders. The Purple Tie Event kicked off Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Wear Purple Day rally featuring survivor speakouts was again held at Cayuga County Courthouse. Nearly 1000 coats were distributed to children in need through Warm the Children and Seneca Coats for Children.

The Agency helped distribute holiday gifts to over 1,100 families through the Cayuga County Christmas Elf and Seneca Christmas Project. These collaborative initiatives rely on volunteers and donors like Skoi Yase Elementary School students, pictured right with Seneca Programs Director Anne Wilkes with a donation of hats and gloves. Emergency Services began providing Home Energy Assistance Program enrollment services in Cayuga County. The Employment Pathways Program supported dozens of individuals on their path to self-sufficiency including helping several obtain Certified Nurses Aide training through Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES. Navigators enrolled nearly 1000 individuals in affordable health insurance. The Agency launched its 2016 Needs Assessment.
Linda’s Story

Linda first presented to our Emergency Services Department in need of food. Like many of our customers, she was faced with the impossible choice between purchasing groceries and paying other necessary bills. She could not pay her taxes and was in jeopardy of losing her home. Linda wasn’t comfortable having to ask for help. She had suffered a debilitating work injury and was now trying to make ends meet on a fixed income from Social Security Disability.

Linda explained her hardship to her Case Manager Christina who referred her to Emily, the Agency’s Disability Resource Coordinator. Emily provided information about the Social Security Administration’s Ticket to Work Program that allows individuals with disabilities to keep their benefits while they explore employment, receive vocational support and gain work experience. Linda decided to enroll in the program, and things began to change.

She went through training to become a Home Health Aide and learned job modifications that would allow her to work with her disability. She is now working full-time and is in the process of transitioning off benefits. When asked what difference the Agency has made in her life, Linda replied, “I’m working, paying my bills. No more borrowing money!”

Chantell’s Story

When Chantell’s oldest son was born she left her job to stay home with him because of limited daycare options. She was on public assistance, which required her to work or volunteer to gain work experience. Chantell was sent to Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency to serve as a volunteer in a Head Start classroom.

I worked as hard as I could and helped out as much as I could. The Agency saw my efforts as volunteer and I was able to apply and be hired for an open Aide position. This brought about much needed change to my family. I was able to buy diapers and even purchase my first vehicle. The Agency helped me to get back on my feet and grow as a person. I was even able to go back to school to be able to change my position from an Aide to an Assistant.

Fast forward 17 years later, I have 4 children 3 of which have been through the Head Start program. I have a new vehicle to get my children around to where they need to be, and they are all thriving. This Agency has literally saved my life. Being a single parent and trying to work and maintain a household is always a challenge but being under the CSCAA umbrella so to speak has truly helped me...I have been able to utilize the car seat program, Christmas Elf, and other programs... This is truly an Agency for the Community, and I thank them for what they have done for me and my family every day.
This Agency literally has saved my life.

Access these and other customer stories online at www.cscaa.com/mystory.html

"Janie’s" Story

My name is Janie and I reached out to CSCAA due to domestic abuse. I was a train wreck. I met with Crystal who listened with compassion and we discussed the help that was available to me. I left that day with hope.

It took me a few weeks to summon the courage to go to the woman’s shelter with my son. It was the best decision I’ve ever made. My son never knew that we were in a shelter - to him it was just a big house with a lot of new friends. During our stay there advocates made sure everyone had everything they needed even if it was just to listen. We felt safe.

We stayed there for 2.5 months and were fortunate enough to be offered a spot in the Transitional Housing Program. Without this program I honestly don’t know what we would have done. With Beth’s help we found an apartment and were able to start our new life. It hasn’t been without it’s challenges but I have felt so supported and have been given the help in a manner that has always been nonjudgemental and has allowed me to retain my dignity...it has given me the time I’ve needed to start to heal.

We felt safe.
Thanks to our 2015 Annual Appeal Donors

Annual Appeal donors gave generously last year to Cayuga Programs, Seneca Programs, the Brendan McGrath Memorial Fund and Where Most Needed. These and thousands of others who gave directly to programs, supported events, or organized fundraisers on behalf of the Agency make our work possible.
Join us for these signature events. The 21st Annual Taste for Community Action, supporting agency-wide programming, will be held Thursday July 28 from 5-7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn in Auburn. This event includes live music, silent auction and tastings from dozens of food and beverage vendors. Tickets on sale now!

The 4rd Annual Purple Tie Event, supporting Domestic Violence Services, will be held Friday September 30 from 5:30-9:00 pm at the Springside Inn in Auburn. This event includes live music, auction, food and more!

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. is a private, non-profit incorporated in 1965 through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight the war on poverty locally. The mission of the Agency is to respectfully assist people to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through direct services, education and community partnerships. The Agency has grown significantly over the years and currently employs over 140 people to implement more than 20 programs in Cayuga and Seneca Counties. The Agency strives to alleviate hunger and homelessness, help domestic violence victims, prepare individuals for the workforce, provide early childhood development, improve health outcomes, lower energy costs and consumption, improve parenting skills and mitigate crisis among individuals, families and children in need.