

## **Community Action Partnership**

### WE PARTNER WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND BUILD HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP FOR MADISON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



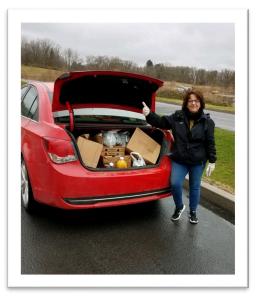
Dear friends of CAP,

Community Action Partnership began the year with exciting plans to expand existing services and launch new ones. Then the world changed with news of a global pandemic. Our priorities quickly shifted to address the urgent needs of vulnerable community members in Madison County. Our offices became a location where families could get personal protective gear, cleaning products, guidance, and food. We amended our services offering online or phone visits with families, porch drops of supplies, and connecting through social media. The year also highlighted racial equity and discrimination concerns. Community Action has deep roots in the struggle for equality and justice dating back to its origins. It is part of the Vision of the National Community Action Partnership which states that "A nation that creates opportunities for all people to thrive, builds strong, resilient communities, and ensures a more equitable society." It is front and center in the Values of the network, "We believe all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender, and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed." CAP remains committed to these values and will continue to fight the twin pandemics of Covid and racial inequality.

Sincerely,

Antre

# CAP IN THE COMMUNITY



CORY MARSH DELIVERING EASTER DINNERS TO FAMILIES IN NEED



DANIELLE DUFFY AT THE NEW YORK COUNTS 2020 CENSUS KICK OFF



THE HOUSING TEAM HANGING HATS AND SCARVES IN HIGINBOTHAM PARK



ANTARA MITRA DONATING MILK TO THE OPPORTUNITY SHOP IN CANASTOTA



CORY MARSH AND BECKY MYERS AT THE NATIONAL MENTORING SUMMIT

# **CAP PROGRAMS**







### EARLY CHILDHOOD

- EARLY HEAD START
- HEALTHY FAMILIES

### FAMILY & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- FAMILY ACTION
- KINSHIP CARE
- MENTORING
- SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

### **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

- WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)
- FARM FRESH

#### HOUSING

- PERMANENT
  SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
- SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS
   PROGRAM (STEHP)
- CENSUS OUTREACH

# EARLY HEAD START (EHS)

### NEW EHS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Susan DeCarlo, EHS Health and Family Services Coordinator, created a YouTube channel to connect with families during the pandemic. The videos showcase simple activities using every day items that parents can use with their toddlers to help increase language and communication skills. One parent said, "The tips in the videos are so helpful. I can help my child be prepared for kindergarten and life beyond the classroom... I can view them over and over again. My child has enjoyed doing the activities with me." Another said, "My child was laughing and playing with me and he didn't even realize the items we used were not from the toy store."





#### SENSORY BOARDS

Our EHS program collaborated with local libraries to bring sensory boards into the hands of children. These boards encourage stimulation of the senses and exploration through sensory play, which supports language development and cognitive growth for babies and toddlers. We are so excited for this opportunity to promote literacy in Madison County.

Thank you to the following libraries for their collaboration: Canastota, Chittenango, Bridgeport, Cazenovia, Earlville, Hamilton, Oneida, and Morrisville

## **HEALTHY FAMILIES**

#### **DIAPER DRIVES**

CAP's Healthy Families team was able to host two free diaper distribution events, one in Canastota and one in Morrisville. Without diapers parents can miss work and incur higher medical expenses. Statistics show that one in three families struggles to provide clean diapers for their baby. With the generous help of CNY Diaper Bank, each family that attended was able to take home 50 diapers. In total we were able to assist over 100 families through these events alone.





#### BREASTFEEDING CONNECTIONS

Our Healthy Families and WIC Programs, in collaboration with the Madison County Health Department and the Healthy Start Partnership, hosted breastfeeding support groups for new and expectant parents. These groups provided a safe space where moms could get professional breastfeeding support, check their babies weight, and connect with others in similar situations. The group was able to quickly switch to virtual meetings throughout the pandemic to provide support and assistance in the comfort of the mothers' own homes.

## **FAMILY ACTION & KINSHIP**



#### COVID RESPONSE

Kelli Marcelle, Family Support Worker for Family Action, was part of a universal response within the agency to provide items of need to families throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Kelli and the entire program worked together to deliver items to families when availability of those items were limited. Some specific items included baby gates, smoke alarms, weighted blankets for anxiety, and diapers and wipes, to name a few. Staff arranged "door deliveries", following public health recommendations to ensure safety for all. These items brought peace of mind to families during a challenging time.

#### **KINSHIP PICNIC**

Our Kinship Caregiver Program provides supports to anyone who is caring for a child that is not their own. Historically, the program hosts a picnic every year for families to socialize and make important connections to provide support to one another. With in-person socialization not being an option this year, our Kinship Care Coordinator delivered picnic care packages to each family. She created games and activities, including all the supplies to make "Oven-melted crayon art". Although families weren't able to meet in person, they have been meeting virtually through Zoom, and have forged a different kind of special connection.



## MENTORING



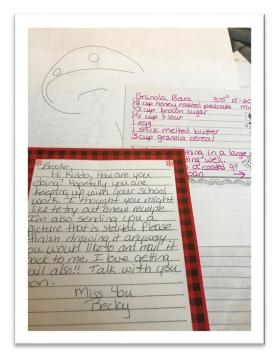
#### SEEDS OF KINDNESS

In their mentoring sessions, our Professional Mentors spoke with their mentees about three different kinds of kindness: to yourself, your community, and nature. Together they decided to plant seeds in planters to give to others. The mentees watched their plants grow, and in turn saw kindness grow. The children in the program loved this activity as it made them feel so good to help others. They were so proud to show off their plants as they grew.

"Kind hearts are the garden, kind thoughts are the roots, kind words are the blossoms, and kind deeds are the fruit."

#### "PEN PALS"

To keep in touch this year during the pandemic, our mentors went back to basics. They began mailing letters to their mentees and quickly became pen pals. Along with the letters our mentors sent out activities, recipes, games, and coloring pages. The mentees loved sending their colorings back to their mentors with their letters. Connecting in this way has made the relationships between mentor and mentee even stronger. They plan to continue writing back and forth, even after the pandemic is over.



## **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

"We can not tell you how much the **CAP Back to School** program means to Oneida Office Supply. The staff enjoys helping the families get the most out of their CAP allowances so that they get as much as they can to help their students succeed in the school year. We get to know each family and work with them to make sure that they are getting supplies specific to their child or children. Oneida Office Supply has class lists on hand and made copies for the families to reference as they shopped. We hope that this program continues through the years! Thank you for allowing us to help these families!"



Stacy, Nancy, and Missy Oneida Office Supply

### **CENSUS OUTREACH**

With Census Equity funds received from the New York Community Trust, CAP helped get out the count in Madison County. We were able to sponsor billboards displayed in Hamilton, Bouckville, and Canastota. We also advertised on PBS kids with a Sesame Street themed ad airing three times a day in Madison County during popular shows such as Peppa Pig and Arthur. Outreach was done at our distribution events, with numerous informational flyers being included in our giveaway bags. We also collaborated with local schools to get flyers out to families during school lunch pickups. Working closely with the county and local US Census Bureau representatives, we ensured everyone had a chance to be counted. Thank you to the Central New York Community Foundation for making this grant possible.



## WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN)





World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated annually the first week in August to help normalize breastfeeding. Our Tri-County WIC program collaborated with Mohawk Valley Breastfeeding Network, the Perinatal Network, Nascentia Home Health, and Neighborhood House to showcase several virtual events via Facebook Live and Zoom. The week kicked off with the "Big Latch On" global event, where moms got together over Zoom and breastfed at the same time to honor and support one another. Over the course of the week Facebook Live Q and A events were hosted featuring various speakers and topics.



Our Breastfeeding Coordinator, Colleen Rielly, discussed how WIC supports Breastfeeding with nutritious food packages, expert breastfeeding help, breast pumps and lactation aids, and peer counseling support. Our Peer Counselor Coordinator, Kirsten Horstman, led our fabulous breastfeeding team in creating an informative Facebook Post for each of the seven days to encourage, support, and educate moms about pregnancy and breastfeeding. These informative posts continue on a weekly basis. Any person who attended an event, liked, or shared our Facebook posts received prizes. While this celebration event was certainly different than in past years it was still successful. Hundreds of moms were reached with the message of support and togetherness.

## FARM FRESH







CAP collaborated with Mosher Farms in Bouckville for the first time this summer to bring healthy and nutritious foods right from the farm to the tables of families in Madison County. This 10-week program provided a different variety of fruits and vegetables each week, along with helpful recipes on how to put them to good use. Boxes were available for pickup at our Canastota and Morrisville offices, and delivery was available to families with no means of transportation. The rise of the Covid-19 pandemic this year put unexpected financial strain on some families, making access to fresh foods even harder than normal to afford and maintain. We are so grateful to have been able to provide some sense of normalcy during these times, and hope to continue this program in the future.

Brittany Massey, mother of four, took full advantage by grilling and cooking the veggies with her children and eating outside. Teaching the children these valuable life skills was a great coping mechanism for them during these stressful times. The family has been home schooling this year due to the pandemic, and have shown much resilience as a family and are teaching their children the value of true "grit" when it comes to getting through tough times.

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## Housing



### TRANSITIONAL APARTMENT RESIDENTS GIVE BACK

Robert and Victoria came to CAP, homeless and having exhausted all other resources. Since then they have successfully completed our program and now have their very own place to call home. To give back, they volunteered their time at our Oneida Distribution Day to help other families in need. "I will never forget how I felt when we had absolutely no where to go", Victoria said, "then you called me and gave us the best gift anyone could ever give a person! We are and will forever be grateful to CAP."

#### HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

In 2019, our Housing team was able to throw a Holiday party for the residents of our Transitional Apartments. With 2020 taking away in-person celebrations, the team knew they had to bring some very special cheer to their families. Each was delivered a full holiday dinner to be cooked at home along with a gift certificate for a New Year's turkey. Each child received a stocking full of treasures, wrapped presents, and hats and gloves. Every family also received a Christmas tree with lights and ornaments, a gingerbread house, and even "indoor snowballs"! Thank you so much to our thoughtful team, who really know how to spread joy, especially when it's most needed.



## **DISTRIBUTION EVENTS**

To say this year did not go according to plan is an understatement. With news of a global pandemic, we had to quickly shift our priorities to meet the needs of our community. We held multiple drive-up distribution events this year to get PPE, masks, hand sanitizer, diapers, hygiene items, food items, and more into the hands of those who needed them.

We couldn't have done this and wouldn't be able to continue to hold events like these without the help of our generous donors. Thank you to all who helped make these events possible.









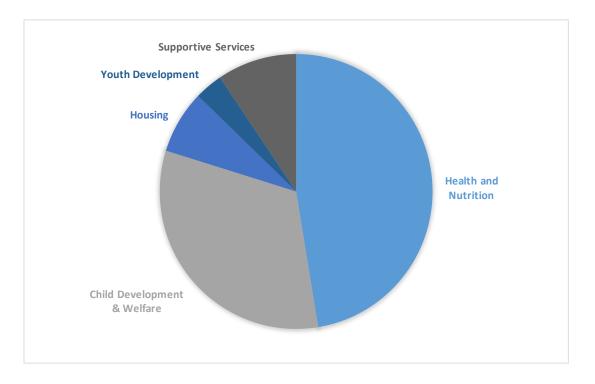


# STAYING CONNECTED WHILE WORKING APART



OUR TEAM MEETINGS LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT THESE DAYS. PICTURED: HEALTHY FAMILIES STAFF SHOWING OFF THEIR FANCY FACE MASKS VIA ZOOM.

## FISCAL OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AREAS



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

PUBLIC SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Dick Kirby, President

Thomas Lynch

LOW INCOME REPRESENTATIVES

Cathy Baksa, Secretary

Jeremy Wattles

**Darcie Leach Loveless** 

Rita Martinez, Early Head Start Liaison

**PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES** 

Paula Welsh, Vice President

Charles Chambers, Treasurer

**Bruce Hathaway** 

Brett Zielasko

# **CONTACT US**



THANK YOU TO THE STUDENTS FROM COLGATE'S KONOSIONI SENIOR HONOR SOCIETY, WHO HELPED RAISE OVER \$2,000 THIS YEAR TO SUPPORT CAP FAMILIES IN NEED

> Canastota Office 1001 New Market Drive Canastota, NY 13032 315-697-3588

Morrisville Office 3 East Main Street Morrisville, NY 13408 315-684-3144

OTHER OFFICES LOCATED IN: ONEIDA, ILION, ROME, & UTICA

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