

Community Action Partnership for Madison County

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



PROGRAM UPDATES

See what CAP has been up to this past year



Community Action Partnership

EVENTS

Celebrating CAP's 35th Anniversary

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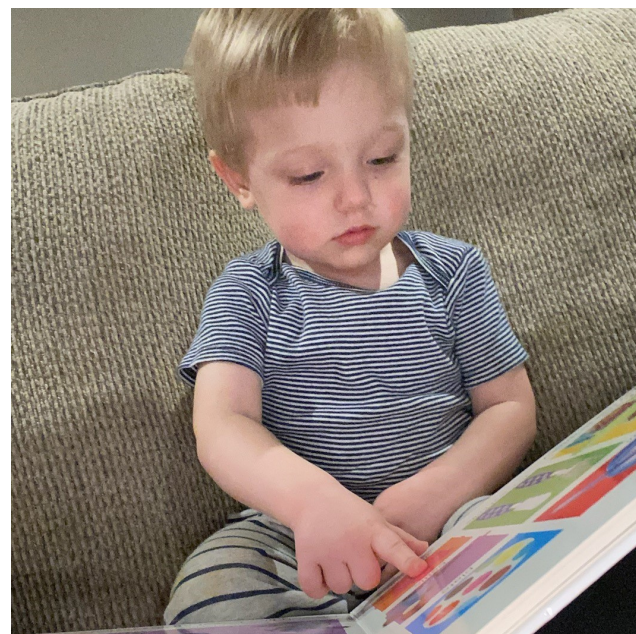
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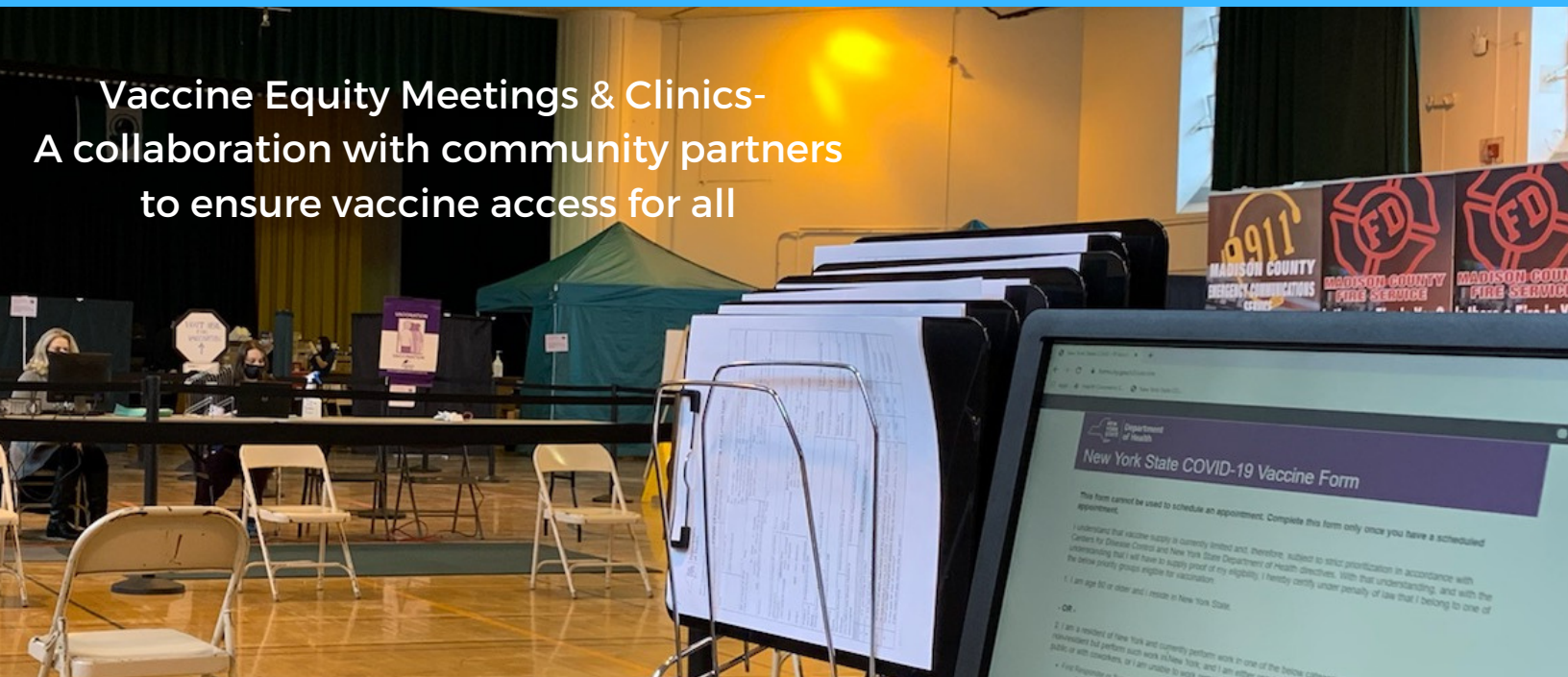
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Board of Directors



CAP IN THE COMMUNITY

Vaccine Equity Meetings & Clinics-
A collaboration with community partners
to ensure vaccine access for all



CAP Diaper Pantry in Morrisville



**WIC during World Breastfeeding Week at
the Utica Zoo**



CAP'S PROGRAMS

Early Head Start

Healthy Families

Family Action

Kinship Care

Mentoring

Supportive Services

WIC

Farm Fresh

Back to School



EARLY HEAD START

NATIONAL READING MONTH

To celebrate National Reading Month in March, the Early Head Start team delivered a new book each week to all families enrolled in the program. For the last week of the month the team delivered the book “I Love You as Big as the World” by David Van Buren along with a teddy bear to support early dramatic play skills. The new books each week brought joy to families stuck at home during a pandemic, and inspired those to read more.

“When I think of all the books still left for me to read, I am certain of further happiness” – Jules Renard



HEAD START FORWARD

In August, the Early Head Start program held a Head Start Forward kick-off event. The Head Start Forward campaign supports grantees in reaching more children and families and moving toward fully in-person comprehensive services, as local health conditions allow.

Families were able to come out and enjoy a variety of activities including performances by “The Bubble Man”, “Jeff The Magician”, and “Jenni’s Music”. The Utica Zoo Mobile brought a variety of animals for us to enjoy including ducks who loved the rainy weather! The Early Head Start Team provided a sensory walk, an area to draw, and time for family photos.

To end the event, families were provided with a delicious lunch which included a cookie! Who doesn’t love a cookie?

HEALTHY FAMILIES

Healthy Families provides free services for expectant and new parents, helping them have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. A picnic was held at Munnsville Park to celebrate the 21 children who graduated from the program from 2020-2021. Families enjoyed an ice cream truck, photo booth, bubble station, and rock painting. Participants walked across a bridge during a formal ceremony signifying their graduation from the program. After a long year of isolation, it was wonderful to see families gather together safely outdoors, celebrating all of the care and effort put in to being Healthy Families.





FAMILY ACTION & KINSHIP

FAMILY ACTION

This past year has been a tough one, to say the least. We have all had to learn to cope with changes and the fears that Covid-19 had brought with it. Everyone's journey has been different. For one family in the Family Action program, changes made throughout the past year have led to positive physical and emotional growth.

Laura* started 2020 locked down by not only a pandemic but a husband who would not let her and her three children leave their house, enduring physical, psychological, and emotional abuse. Laura has since escaped her abusive relationship, has begun mental health treatment, and is working with her children to establish consistent routines, healthy eating, and chores. She has shown tremendous resilience in a difficult time.

*name has been changed

KINSHIP

Our Kinship program has been serving families in Madison County since 2016. This program provides support to caregivers who are caring for children that are not biologically their own such as grandparents, aunts and uncles, and family friends. This past year the program expanded to serve both Madison and Chenango counties.

CAP is pleased to welcome our new Kinship Program Manager, Chris Mott. Chris attended Syracuse University's School of Social Work and has advocated for and supported families for over 30 years to help them to reach their optimal potential. Most recently, she worked in the areas of family literacy, early childhood education, and parenting to develop high quality programming. She really enjoys collaborating with other agencies in the community and is looking forward to working with kinship families.

MENTORING

This summer our Mentoring program hosted a "Camp in the Box" event in collaboration with the Salvation Army to give mentees an at-home camp experience. 25 children and their guardians joined us at Zem's in Canastota for ice cream, hot dogs, games, and activities. Each were given a kit to take home that included:

- Smores Kits
- Tie Dye Kits
- Puzzles
- Lunch Bags
- Water Bottles
- Games

The pandemic had stopped children from going to camp, so we brought the camp to them! They went home with a box full of fun and happiness in their hearts.

"CAMP IN A BOX": BRINGING THE CAMP EXPERIENCE HOME

Our mentees came to this event with smiles and excitement. They shared how great it was to be out and able to have this experience. This event was for them and the excitement for camp in the future.

We were able to put on this event in part by funding from CSBG CARES. This much needed funding was made available to assist those who have been negatively impacted financially by the Covid-19 pandemic.



**"BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND
ALL THAT YOU ARE. KNOW
THAT THERE IS SOMETHING
INSIDE YOU THAT IS
GREATER THAN ANY
OBSTACLE."- CHRISTIAN D.
LARSON**

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

"TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, GIVE WHAT YOU CAN"

Our "Supportive Services" program and our "Housing" programs have united under one program with one manager, now called "Supportive Services". The Supportive Services team does exactly that: supports our community members when they need it the most. The merge has streamlined processes and the team is very happy to be united with one common goal.

This year our Supportive Services program hosted a community-based event called "Take what you Need, Give what you Can". Over time the team have collected donations of household items, clothing, and other necessities. In an effort to get those items out into the hands of community members who need them, the team created a garage sale-style set up at our Canastota office. Anyone in need was able to stop by and take anything they needed at no cost. If able, monetary donations were accepted. All donations went toward helping the homeless population in Madison County.





WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN)

The WIC breastfeeding team has had many successes this year. They initiated their own breastfeeding support group called Mother's Own Milk Supply or M.O.M.S. for short. Their group meets weekly and is led by a Certified Lactation Consultant and a Peer Counselor. They have enjoyed supporting moms this way and are looking forward to being able to meet in person again soon.

The Annual Utica Zoo Event was held this year during World Breastfeeding Week. Fun was had by all and it was such a great way to not only celebrate moms on their journeys, but normalize breastfeeding as well! The breastfeeding team was able to meet and see many of the moms and babies we support. We played games, had goodie bags, raffle prizes, snacks, and families were able to visit multiple vendor booths as well as enjoy the zoo for the day.

Our WIC program had another successful Farmer's Market season. Each WIC participant receives Farmer's Market Checks for \$20 to use toward fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers. Several members of the WIC team spent a Saturday morning at the Oneida County Public Market. They hosted a Facebook live event showcasing local farmers and what \$20 worth of fresh produce could look like.

WIC continues to strive daily to provide nutrition education and counseling to all of their participants in this challenging time. A big shout out to all members of the team for continuing this valuable service through the pandemic!

To stay up to date on all things WIC, follow them on Facebook @TriCountyWIC.

FARM FRESH & BACK TO SCHOOL

We were thrilled this year to yet again partner with Mosher Farms for our "Farm Fresh" program to bring healthy, local foods to the tables of families who needed them. Once a week for six consecutive weeks, 40 families were provided with a whole box of fresh fruits and vegetables. Along with the produce were recipe ideas on how to prepare all the healthy food. Families found cooking to be a great bonding activity to share and learn with their children.

Thank you to Mosher Farms for providing the boxes and to CSBG for providing funding that made this program possible.

PROMOTING HEALTHY MINDS AND HEALTHY BODIES

We were also thrilled to continue our "Back to School" program in collaboration with Oneida Office Supply. 100 children were provided with a voucher to spend up to \$100 on necessary school supplies, clothing, and shoes. The store had access to all Madison County schools supply lists to better assist families, and very graciously placed special orders for families if they did not have a specific item in stock. We are so happy to have been able to provide these supplies to children, especially this year. The pandemic truly gave the term "Back to school" new meaning!

Thank you to Oneida Office Supply for partnering with us on this program, and to CSBG for providing CARES funding to help these families that were affected financially by the Covid-19 pandemic.



35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

2021 marks Community Action Partnership's 35th year of building stronger communities.

To commemorate our anniversary, we hosted a celebratory event at our Canastota office.

Over 40 people were in attendance including Irene Brown, CAP's founder, current and past CAP employees, community partners, and donors. Permanent displays of CAP's history were created; newspaper articles from the 1980's to today, programs over time, photographs, and logos. An ice cream truck provided sweets to the delight of children and adults alike. A live musician serenaded us with tunes while we walked down memory lane.

Thank you to all who helped make our anniversary celebration special.

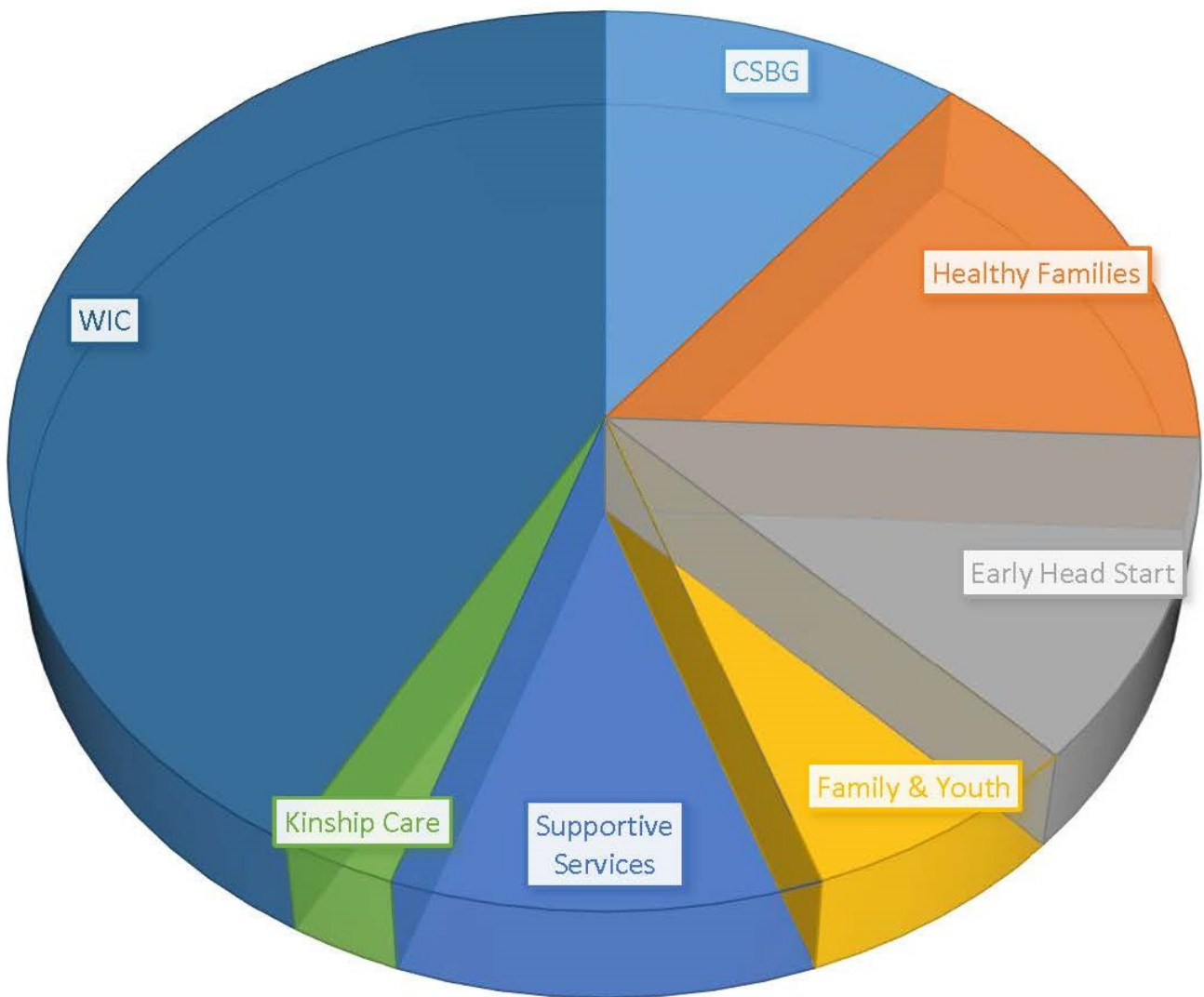
Numerous individuals who had memorable ties with CAP were contacted to compile personal stories. Please enjoy the following except from our anthology.

"Working for CAP has changed my life. I wish I could have worked here sooner! Before coming to CAP, I worked for a bank that encouraged an atmosphere of shame, blame, fear, and yelling. Of course, this took its toll on my mental health. At CAP I feel valued, listened to, and respected. I am encouraged to take care of "me". I can say that all of my program managers have been wonderful. As a result of my six years at CAP, I have much more confidence in myself. I have flexibility, I am validated, and there is much focus on my strengths as a person. As a result, I am very happy with my job, and my positive attitude trickles into the work that I do as a home visitor for the Family Action program. I am able to focus on doing the same for the CAP families that I serve, as CAP has done for me."

Kelli Marcelle
Family Support Worker



FISCAL OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AREAS



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CONTACT US



CANASTOTA OFFICE
1001 NEW MARKET DRIVE
CANASTOTA, NY 13032

MORRISVILLE OFFICE
3 EAST MAIN STREET
MORRISVILLE, NY 13408

ADDITIONAL OFFICES IN ONEIDA,
ILION, ROME, & UTICA

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