

Community Action Partnership for Madison County



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR LEADERS

We hope to provide an impactful annual report that conveys key information that showcases the organization's achievements, impact, and transparency. The report overview is provided this year by our Community Service Director. As a part of our Senior Management Team, William Nicholson plays a crucial role in the CAP organization by supporting the overall leadership and management functions. The Community Service Director is a vital figure who collaborates closely with top leadership to drive the non-profit organization toward its goals, ensuring operational excellence, financial sustainability, and impactful service delivery.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Crofut, Executive Director

2023 was a year of remarkable progress at Community Action, as we continued to find new and exciting ways to build community while serving the needs of individuals and families throughout our region. Our Kinship Caregivers program, along with our Family Action program helped dozens of families to weather some of life's greatest challenges with dignity, while our Mentoring programs provided additional positive role modeling for our youth to develop their full potential as young adults. Our Healthy Families program and Early Head Start program continued as exemplars of the highest quality prenatal and early child development services, forging positive relationships with families as they journey through parenting and its many challenges. Our WIC program continued to provide nutritional support and education for thousands of individuals throughout three counties.

Our Supportive Services programs helped hundreds of individuals and families get through some of life's setbacks to return to self-sufficiency with a kind and caring hand. As housing shortages and market pressures continued to impact communities everywhere, we here at Community Action rose to the occasion, developing more housing options for low income individuals and families. We continued innovating to strengthen our community with partnerships and support from both private foundations and municipal funders, allowing us to increase broadband access through the Affordable Connectivity Program, enhance summer nutrition options with the Farm Fresh program, keep our seniors connected to their community with the Fueling our Seniors program, and other creative programs.

As an agency, we completed an important update to our Strategic Plan with an eye toward increasing the reach and agility of our programs to meet the complex needs of our community, while also focusing on the professional development, strength and resiliency of our incredible staff members. It is truly through our people that we are best able to serve our community, and we are incredibly proud of the team that shows up every day, proving what can be accomplished when we all work together to improve the lives of our community members.

With my deepest gratitude for the privilege of working with, and for this wonderful community,
William Nicholson, Community Services Director

CAP IN THE COMMUNITY





OUR PROGRAMS

Affordable Connectivity Program

Early Head Start

Family Action

Farm Fresh

Fueling our Seniors

Healthy Families

Kinship Care

Mentoring

MORE

Supportive Services

WIC



EARLY HEAD START

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Early Head Start (EHS) is a home-based program that serves prenatal women and families with children under age 3. EHS supports children and families in achieving both school readiness goals and family goals. During the course of the last year, a family that we have been working with for seven years left a toxic relationship. She was able to move into her own apartment with her children and gain full time employment. Her Family Support Worker supported her through our Family Development Process.



The family determined their strengths and set goals with their Family support workers. Upon leaving the relationship and with the help of the Family Support Worker, the family increased their strengths score by 13 points during the course of the program year! Not only are they thriving, they are inspiring us!

OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

In June, the EHS program celebrated the grand opening of their outdoor learning center, which holds a space for playgroups. In developing the learning center, materials were included to support children's school readiness. Each learning area displays school readiness goals and shows the learning continuum of children from birth to three supporting the program in helping parents understand their child's development. Areas to discover include a mud kitchen, blocks, sensory stations, books, music, climbing equipment, ball play, and a gardening center. Garden boxes provide families the opportunity to plant and harvest vegetables during their time together.



HEALTHY FAMILIES

About the Program

Healthy Families Madison County is an evidence-based program offering home-based services to expectant families and new parents. Services are free and voluntary, beginning prenatally or within 3 months of the child's birth and can continue through 5 years of age. Participants are assessed on key focus areas, identifying risk factors and protective factors they may face, which drives an individualized service plan. Family Support Specialists then partner with families to concentrate on the parent-child relationship, using an approved curriculum on home visits that center on parent-child interaction and child development. Services include support around prenatal care, breast feeding, parenting and child development education/activities, assessing children for developmental delays, and referrals to community resources.



Program Success

"I met Missy in Madison County Jail when she participated in the group I co-facilitate. Missy had a substance abuse disorder that spiraled out of control when her 6 year old daughter died from a brain tumor. Missy numbed the pain with drugs and alcohol. After 22 years together she left her two sons and their Father and her behavior continued to spiral.

Since then Missy embarked on an inspiring journey. She entered rehab, where she found out she was pregnant from routine blood work. She enrolled in our Healthy Families program, attended weekly Probation appointments, paid all fines and got her license back. She has recently connected with the Mental Health Dept. to continue to address her mental health, and connects with her counselor from FCS to stay focused on sobriety. Missy's daughter was born and she was able to secure an apartment. She has been clean and sober for almost two years. Missy continues to work on her relationships with her two teenage sons. She has been so vulnerable during our visits the past 20 months providing the opportunity for us to have conversations about how her trauma has impacted her life. She has loved working with our curriculum and she and her daughter share a bond and attachment that Mom has said is her motivation to continue to grow."

Jill Williams, Senior Family Support Specialist



FAMILY ACTION & KINSHIP

FAMILY ACTION

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Family Action program aims to keep caregivers and children together while relieving household challenges which may otherwise impact the family's success. The program is unique to each family it serves, as the approach is different based on the family's personal network, finances, resources, abilities and preferences. This year Family Action staff participated in just under 400 hours of training to be better prepared to meet the needs of clients and to be better equipped to support them through challenges. By being better informed on topics that pertain to our clients, our team is stronger in being able to respond in the moment as well as to offer resources and connections to long-term supports.

2023 was the first year that Family Action partnered with Colgate University to obtain items of need for families. Through this partnership, the Family Action program was able to obtain over \$800 worth of materials for organization, health and hygiene, and cleaning, as well as school supplies, bedding, and bathroom items and toiletries. These items help families to relieve economic insecurity by providing items that the family may not otherwise have means to obtain.

KINSHIP

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Kinship Care Coordination program is provided to any family in Madison or Chenango counties where members are currently supporting and raising children that are not biologically their own. A Case Coordinator assists caregivers to find supports necessary to make a successful transition for children into their home and family. They make weekly home visits to help kinship caregivers meet goals, make linkages, and provide referrals to community partners.

SUCCESS STORY

"In November 2022, Susan and Mark accepted care and custody of their six year old grandson Caleb with less than twenty-four hours' notice. Caleb arrived with nothing but the clothes on his back.

Despite their struggles, Susan and Mark assure that Caleb has the emotional, financial, and educational supports he needs. Caleb was enrolled in school, and with help from the Kinship Program accessed holiday services, youth mental health services, child advocacy programs, resource referrals to local food pantries, clothing programs, and mentoring services.

Caleb is flourishing in his Kinship Caregiver home with his grandparents. The family actively participates in the program, working in partnership to create realistic, obtainable goals to aid in family resiliency."- Deborah Donnelly, Kinship Care Program Manager

MENTORING



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

“Our Mentoring program engages youth in fun events year round. Our goal is to have one on one visits with our Mentee; which supports them with things they struggle with, experience finding their talents, and building a trusting relationship. We also have group activities with youth. This helps them with socialization skills and they meet other Mentees in the program. In the Winter we have gone bowling, sledding, and even baked treats. Spring time comes and we can get outdoors more and enjoy the parks. We did have a fun group activity this year and built Blue bird houses. Our youth learned a lot about Blue birds and made the bird house for Senior citizens.

Summer time is the best when we go to the beach, play tennis, fishing and enjoy the sunshine. Then there's Fall with pumpkins and apple picking. This year our Mentees and Mentors built a scarecrow to display out front of our office. Year round we engage in fun things while making a difference in a youth's life.

This year our Mentoring program started a new group called One Circle / Girls Circle. This group helps support girls with different topics to work through and talk about. The first group we had the topic. “Friendship.” Our Mentors are Girls Circle Facilitators. Within the group the girls learned what makes a good friend, how to communicate in a positive friendship, and learned and experienced several ways to engage, share, and be a good friend.”- Cory Marsh, Youth Mentor Coordinator

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND MADISON COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES FOR REENTRY AND EMPLOYMENT (MORE)

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Supportive Services:

Temporary Services and Housing Facilitators assist individuals and families with stabilization needs which may include temporary financial assistance for transportation and housing needs, including assistance for families and individuals who are homeless or at a high risk of becoming homeless. Additionally, our Transitional Apartment complex provides a safe, temporary, and affordable housing for families with children dealing with homelessness.

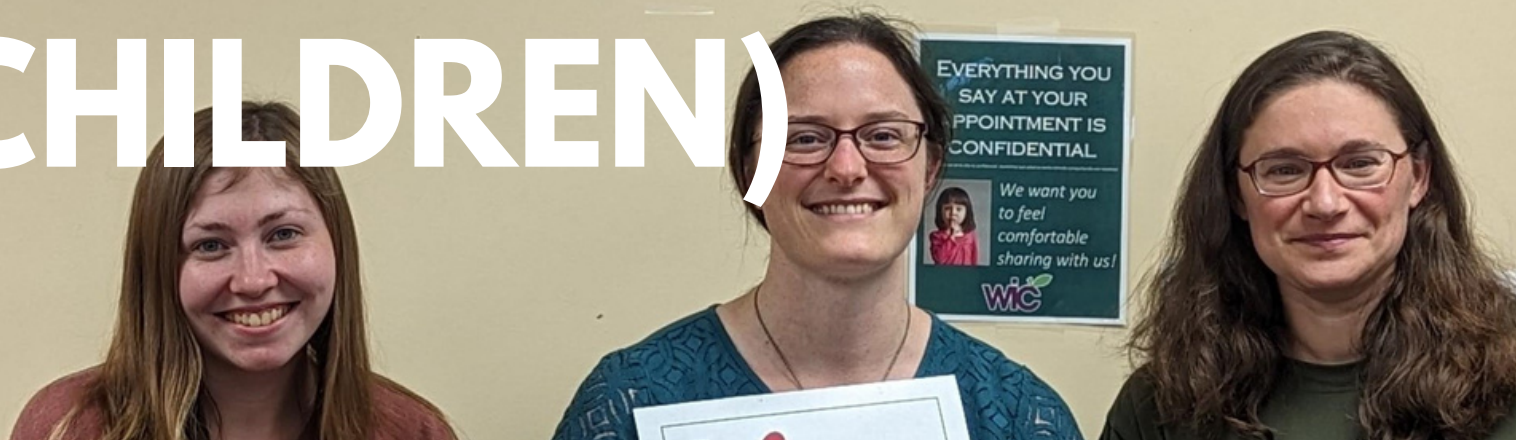
"A young woman who has served time at Madison County Jail numerous times in her life is now turning things around with the support of the MORE program. With years after years of legal involvement this individual decided to take hold of their life and make some changes. Assistance from the MORE program's housing assistance and employment assistance has helped this individual make the changes they need to remain sober, gain employment, and obtain housing. In doing so they have friends and family members mentioning just how well they are doing and the improvements they are now seeing. She is feeling more fulfilled and motivated than ever. This individual is now able to spend time with her young daughter on a regular basis with the hope of regaining custody in the near future. They have built a support network and resources using the skills learned in the Getting Ahead While Getting Out curriculum used in the jail and applying them as they re-enter into the community. It is incredible to me to watch this individual and many like her do a complete turn around and re-define their lives." - Chevon Janczuk, MORE Coordinator

MORE:

The MORE program, in collaboration with the Center for Court Innovation, was created to increase economic opportunities for those recently released from jail. The program combines 10-week group training sessions while individuals are incarcerated, followed by individualized case management upon release.



WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN)



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

WIC's goal is to improve the health and nutrition of moms and kids. It is well known that pregnancy and early childhood are among the most important times for growth and development. WIC offers nutrition education, breastfeeding support, referrals, and a variety of nutritious foods to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum women, infants and children up to age five to promote and support good health.

WIC had the honor of being awarded the Gold USDA Breastfeeding Award of Excellence this year. Our WIC team strives to provide culturally diverse breastfeeding education and support to our participants across three counties. Their passion for helping participants make informed feeding decisions is inspiring. It starts with our Nutrition Assistants, who start the conversation about our breastfeeding program. We have Designated Breastfeeding Experts and Peer Counselors in each of our clinics, who work in conjunction with our nutrition staff to provide quality lactation care. Our team utilizes virtual as well as in person opportunities to help our participants reach their breastfeeding goals. WIC is proud that our dedicated staff of peer counselors, nutritionists and nutrition assistants were recognized for the support they provide to our participants every day!

FARM FRESH

Our Farm Fresh program continued this past summer for its fourth consecutive year. Our continued partnership with Mosher Farms brought healthy, local foods to the tables of families who needed them. Once a week for eight consecutive weeks, 40 families were provided with a whole box of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Thank you to the McNeice Foundation, whose generous donation made continuing this vital program possible.

FUELING OUR SENIORS PROGRAM

Thanks to funds from the 1886 Benevolent Society, we were able to provide gas cards for individuals over 60 so they could participate as a volunteer or participant in our Kinship Care or Mentoring programs. It provided support for older adults so they could assist in addressing the challenges in the community and within their families. Those receiving the gas cards helped a youth build resilience through the mentoring or kinship care program.

The gas cards “have been a lifesaver, often the only tangible way to get anywhere,” said one of our participants. “There have been times we have had virtually no money, but we have been able to continue to use our car for much needed work and family needs”.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

In collaboration with NYSCAA, CAP added the Affordable Connectivity Program to its roster this past year. With funds made available through the FCC, our Connectivity Coordinator assists community members in enrollment in the program, receiving a discount on broadband service. The program also provides a discount on a computer for those who qualify. Our Coordinator provides outreach throughout the community and through social media posts to reach historically underserved and unserved communities.



FAMILY FUN FEST

On September 9th, CAP hosted it's first ever Family Fun Fest event at our Canastota office, with activities for all ages.

Outside, program staff had booths set up with games and fun prizes. Our Housing program hosted a clothing give away. Gloria's Ice Cream truck was on hand to provide sweet treats. A DJ kept the energy going with party tunes.

Inside, we hosted a basket raffle fundraiser to benefit CAP and the families we serve. Prizes included gift cards to local businesses, a lotto board, baskets with items curated by staff and volunteers, and more. Thank you to all of the local businesses whose donations helped make our fundraiser such a success.



FISCAL

AGENCY BUDGET

OCTOBER 1, 2022-SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

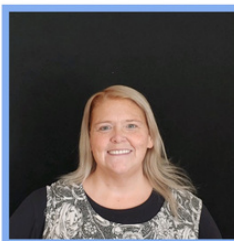
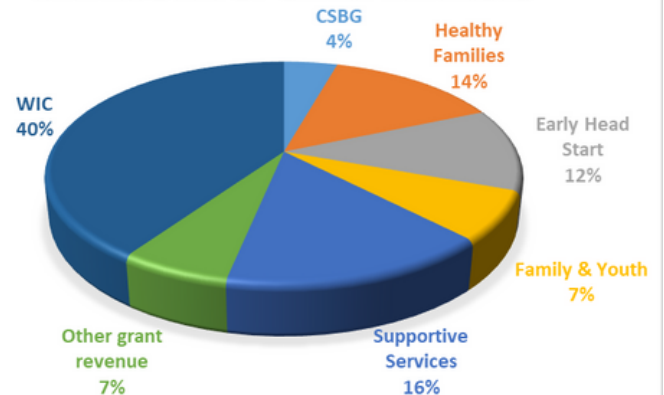
Revenues

Grant income \$5,432,406
Restricted donations \$1,000
Foundations \$13,125
Unrestricted donations \$22,000

Expenses

Personnel \$3,863,914
Admin other than personnel \$1,284,173
Direct consumer expenditures \$320,444

BREAKDOWN OF GRANT REVENUES



OUR FISCAL TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

**The Board of Community Action Partnership for
Madison County is a tri-partite board with
members of the public sector, the private sector,
and representatives for the low income
community.**

Public Sector Representatives

**Dick Kirby, President
Kyle Reger, Vice President
Todd Rouse**

Low-Income Representatives

**Sarah Chesebro, Secretary
Wendy Dutcher
Megan Kosmoski
Joseph Mather**

Private Sector Representatives

**Charlie Chambers, Treasurer
Bruce Hathaway
Heidi Menikheim
Janae Meyer
Melissa Moore**

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