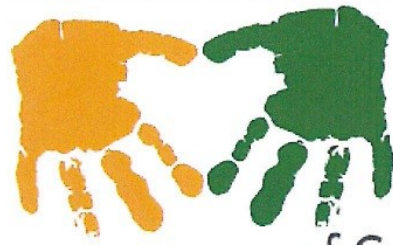


COMMUNITY ACTION

of Greene County, Inc.



2018 Annual Report



Creating Opportunities... Fighting Poverty... Changing Lives



Letter from the Executive Director

In 2018, as mandated by the Community Services Block Grant that funds this agency, we completed our triennial Community Needs Assessment. As can be expected, areas of concern noted for those surveyed continue to include access to reliable transportation, lack of decent affordable housing, inability to meet financial obligations. We at Community Action of Greene County, Inc. continue to work to address these areas of concern, providing financial and other assistance where able to help families meet basic needs, acquire the skills necessary to obtain or maintain employment. We work in partnership with many agencies, individuals and businesses in order to meet our goals, avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize what limited resources are available in our small community. We seek to ex-

pand and broaden services whenever possible in order to meet the needs of our community, as well as to increase the resources available to meet those needs. The following is an overview of the work we have undertaken in 2018.

As affordable housing continues to be an area of major concern in our community, our work in housing and homelessness is a priority. As you are aware, homelessness in our community increased this past year. We continue to be an active member of the local Continuum of Care, the Columbia Greene Housing Coalition, which by reporting our statistics to HUD has brought funds into our two county region to address homelessness. We continue to administer two (2) HUD Permanent Supportive Housing projects- a two (2) bed project for chronically homeless individuals, and a three (3) unit project for families fleeing from domestic violence. These projects, scattered site apartments within the community, allow formerly homeless individuals and families to receive leasing assistance, as well as the crucial supportive services they require in order to maintain safe, permanent housing.

In addition to these HUD funds, we also administer the STEHP (Solutions to End Homelessness Program) program, which through Rapid Re-housing allows for financial assistance to move homeless households out of motels and into permanent housing. The Prevention piece of this grant provides financial assistance to households at imminent risk of eviction due to rental arrears. Unfortunately, due to the rising rental costs in our community sustainability is often an issue despite our assistance.

Food insecurity continues to plague many Greene County residents, including working families. Through our Emergency Food Pantry and Feeding America Programs, we are able to continue to provide food to families in need as they present at our office. This year we have created a new position, a Farm to Food Pantry Coordinator, which is responsible for developing relationships with local farmers. The farms will donate produce to our community pantries, and in some cases allow for volunteers to glean produce for distribution. Volunteers are crucial to this program's success for both gleaning and delivering the produce to pantries. We are waiting on word from a grant opportunity through the NYS DEC, which will allow us to purchase a van specifically for this use, as well as to expand our pantry through a "mobile food pantry". If granted these funds, we will be able to delivery pantry services to underserved areas of our county, and to places where lack of transportation proves to be a barrier to receiving necessary services.

We continue to be a SNAP retailer for Field Goods, and are boosting our outreach efforts to inform the public of this service. Field Goods has offered, exclusively through our program, two specially priced packages of fresh, local produce that is delivered to our office on a weekly basis. Food that is purchased can also be delivered to the mountain top on Fridays, at the Prattsville Art Center. SNAP recipients pay for their produce here at our offices with their benefit cards.

We are winding down our third winter on the mountain, staffing the Prattsville Art Center each Friday, year round, bringing our services to this underserved community. There are now several other agencies present on Fridays, and this collaboration has increased access for those with limited transportation to such services as health screenings, health care navigation, weatherization, domestic violence, food pantry and more.

Last year I had reported that we were in the application process with NYS Department of Health to become a Medicaid transportation provider. Our application was not approved, and at this time I am uncertain as to whether or not we will continue to pursue this program. I am pleased to be included in the newly formed Greene County Transportation Advisory Council which is tasked with increasing access to transportation services to all populations in our community- the elderly, students, work force as well as low income individuals.

Our domestic violence program has been fortunate to have been chosen as the beneficiary, once again, of the St. Theresa's Annual Women's Expo in Windham. Despite their most generous donation of \$10,000 in 2018 to our Greene County Shelter, we were forced to close this facili-

In 2019, we look forward to providing more education to the community on the topic of domestic violence, its effects on our community, as well as the services available to survivors. Letters have been sent to service providers, educators, law enforcement and community groups offering our community educator. April is Crime Victims Awareness Month, and we have several exciting events planned. We look forward to providing "The Yellow Dress", a one person play on domestic violence geared towards high school students to the student body of Cairo Durham in April. We will also be hosting a presentation on strangulation at Columbia Greene Community College, open to the public. Strangulation is a form of victimization that often goes undetected and that can cause lasting issues for victims. The presenter, Gael Strack, is CEO for Alliance for HOPE and is the nationally recognized expert on this topic.

Although we have the best team in our Weatherization Department in recent memory, we struggled this year to meet our contractual obligations. NYS HCR, which administers our grant, has strict requirements on deferring jobs if the home seeking service needs extensive work. For example, a roof is leaking, there are structural or health and safety issues, such as mold, we are not permitted to weatherize until those identified issues are resolved. Often, due to lack of resources, the homeowner is not able to address those issues and thereby cannot receive our service. In addition, we are still not permitted to weatherize a home more than once. So, for example, a home received service in 1995, regardless of the work performed, we are not permitted to go back and address any issues that may exist. We have been creative and persistent in our outreach activities in order to expand our wait list, however due to the aging housing stock many applicants are deferred. We are looking forward this year to expanding our fee for service with small home repairs and maintenance.

In 2018 we laid important groundwork for our Greene County Peer Court, developing forms, releases, policies and training manuals, which were reviewed and approved by our advisory council and the County Attorney. With deeply invested partners such as Greene County Probation, Family Court, Public Defender's and District Attorney's Offices, as well as the Department of Human Services, we are ready to begin taking cases this spring. Students from four of the six county school districts have expressed interest in, and have volunteered to become part of the Court. The first of six training sessions is scheduled for early March.

Our Pay it Forward Community Thrift Store continues to do well, and receives great support from our community. Donations, including entire house contents, allow us to generate income that supports the agency's overhead. Local school districts benefit from our inventory for fashion shows, school plays and the like. We continue to be a volunteer site for the general community, as well as Social Service recipients through the CWEP program. Our own in-house voucher system allows us to provide basic necessities, such as clothing, cookware, linens and coats to those whose tight budgets don't allow for the purchase of such items, even at our low prices. Our hope is one day to be able to expand our selling space to accommodate the many donations!

The Grow it Forward Greenhouse Project, as you can see by the following list, has a wonderful Board of Directors with diverse backgrounds in agriculture and business. In the past year the board has developed and approved by-laws, a resource sharing agreement with Community Action, and has been laying the groundwork for our much anticipated social enterprise! Community Action is purchasing property in the town of Cairo which will then be leased to Grow it Forward for the purpose of growing micro greens, herbs and lettuces. We expect to be growing microgreens indoors by May of this year, and looking to erect a hydroponic greenhouse for lettuces and herbs within the following year. Our goal is to generate revenue to expand current services and support our programs, create jobs, provide opportunities for those with limited skills and work experience, while expanding access to local, fresh, nutritious foods.

GSK, located in Oak Hill, had nominated this agency for their Community Impact Award in 2018. We were one of only 20 agencies nationwide that received a \$10,000 grant for the work that we do! Those funds will be used for emergency assistance and staff development.

As alluded to in the opening paragraph, as a Community Action Agency (CAA), funded through the Community Services Block Grant, administered by the NYS Department of State, there are many mandates. One of which is a triennial review which measures our agency's performance against 58 Organizational Standards that were set by the federal Office of Community Services. These standards rate CAAs in the areas of governance, fiscal oversight and management, organizational leadership, community engagement and assessment, human resource management, strategic planning and data and analysis. As a result of the assessment conducted on October 9-11, 2018, the Department of State found that Community Action of Greene County, Inc. met 54 of 58 (93%) of the National Organizational Standards, and meets 182 of the 198 (92%) applicable indicators of excellence. Furthermore, it was determined that there were no significant findings or deficiencies.

We look forward to continuing our service to Greene County and surrounding communities, and expanding our services to meet the needs of our constituents. Working with our many partners in the community, we will continue to address the issues affecting our community, removing barriers to self-sufficiency and family stability. We look to 2019 with great anticipation; with an active Greene County Peer Court, and beginning production with the Grow it Forward Greenhouse Project.



Community Action Board of Directors

- Rev. John Bowen, President, Low Income Sector
- Tracy Magee Ricci, Vice President, Public Sector (Representing NYS Assemblyman Christopher Tague)
- Carrie Multari, Treasurer, Low Income Sector
- Carol Pfister, Secretary, Public Sector (Representing Gail Lasher, Trustee Village of Athens)
- Aidan O'Connor, Public Sector
- Nancy Barton, Private Sector
- William Reich, Private Sector
- Mary Ann Scalera, Low Income Sector
- Tracy Jo Szepessy, Low Income Sector
- Lori Torgersen, Private Sector
- Nathan Gardner, Private Sector
- Robert Schrock, Public Sector (Representing Greene County Legislator Bill Lawrence)

Community Action Senior Staff

- Executive Director - Florence Ohle
- Operations Officer - Heather Stine
- Director, Family, Community And Victim Services - Barbara Palmateer
- Director, Weatherization Assistance Program - Jamie Linzey
- Director, Retail Operations - Alan Siegel



Grow it Forward Greenhouse Project, Inc.

Executive Director Alan Siegel

Board of Directors

President	Stephen Hadcock
Vice President	Daniel King
Treasurer	Nancy Richards
Secretary	John Bowen
	Maureen Boutin
	Russell Le Count
	Michael Martin
	Aidan O'Connor, Jr.

Community Action

of Greene County, Inc.



Annual Report, January, 2018 through December, 2018

Funding Source

STATE FEDERAL LOCAL PRIVATE

Columbia County Dept of Social Services

\$52,000.00

Community Services Block Grant - NYS Dept. of State

\$317,555.00

Donations

\$26,768.00

Emergency Food & Shelter

\$2,920.00

Federal Family Violence Prevention

\$30,906.00

Fee for Service & Program Income

\$11,788.00

Foundation Grants

\$46,000.00

Greene County Dept. of Social Services

\$98,682.00

Greene County Legislature

\$36,765.00

Interest Income

\$167.00

LDSS (Domestic Violence Per Diems)

\$636,107.00

NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal

\$325,501.00

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

\$26,678.00

NYS Empower

\$412.00

NYS Office of Temp/Disab Assist (STEHP)

\$53,784.00

NYS Office of Victims Services

\$166,866.00

Other Grant Funding

\$923.00

Pay it Forward Thrift Store Income

\$60,779.00

Transitional Housing Income

\$10,330.00

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

\$70,363.00

IN KIND Services, Non Monetary Donations and Services

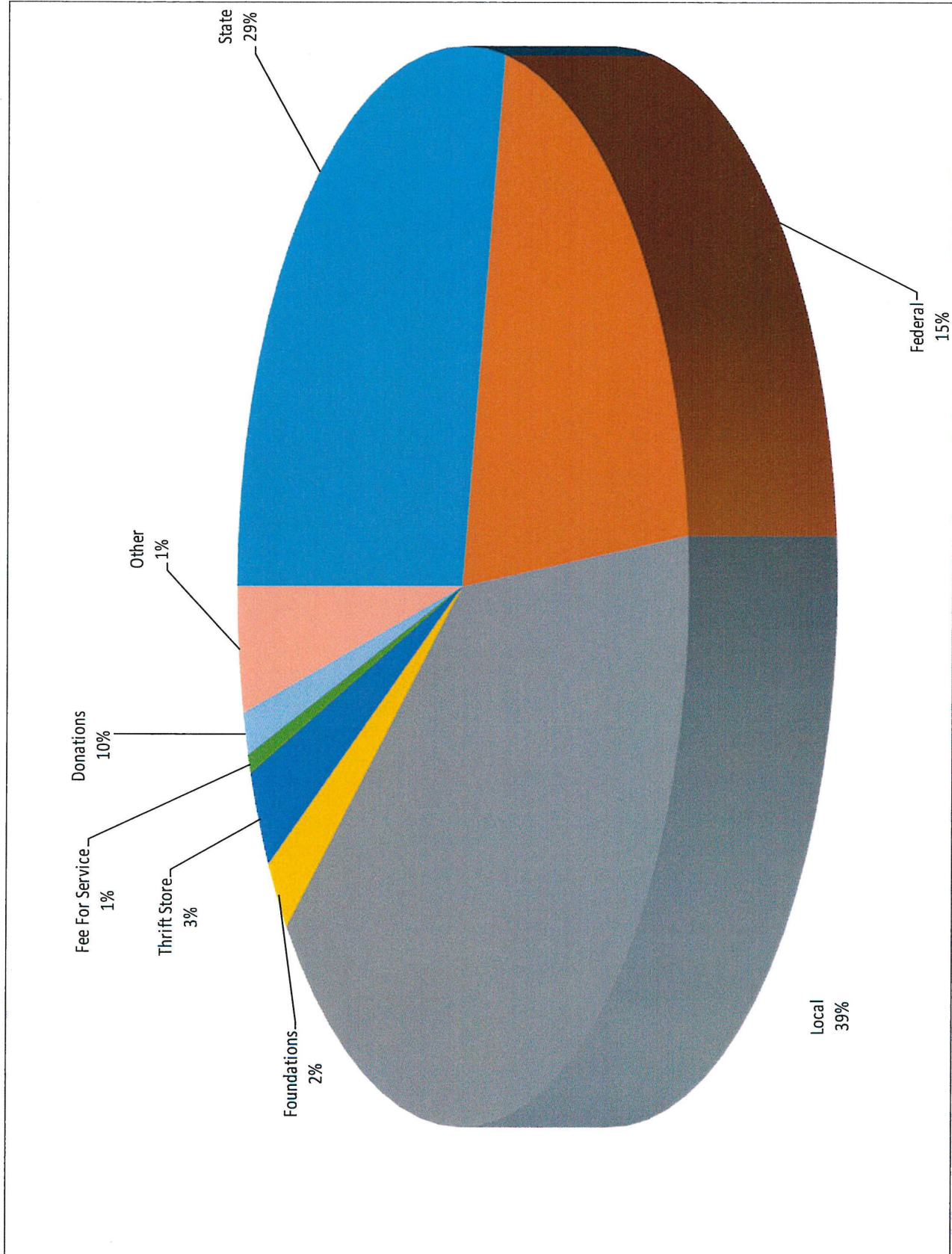
\$76,573.00

Totals

\$833,884.00

TOTAL AGENCY INCOME:

\$2,051,867.00



Service	Number Served - 2018	Prior Year - 2017
Food Pantry	3,897 persons, 401 unduplicated households, 1,961 food packages, 37,073 meals	4,419 persons, 427 unduplicated households, 2,141 food packages, 39,771 meals
Feeding America	153 food pickups, 50,593 lbs. of food	149 food pickups, 72,586 lbs. of food
Store Vouchers	153 clothing, 83 household items, 5 furniture	186 clothing, 59 household items, 1 furniture
Emergency Assistance	2 rent/security, 2 other	8 rent/security, 8 utilities, 1 auto repair, 13 other
Healthy Homes Case Management	25 households	15 households
STEHP (Solutions to End Homelessness)	27 homeless households , 48 at risk households served with security or rent,	19 homeless households (36 people) , 29 at risk households (75 people) served with security/rent, 1 household assisted with utilities
Resource Room (computer, Phone, Fax use)	20 unduplicated people, 129 visits	28 unduplicated people, 109 visits
Domestic Violence Hotline Calls	1,094	1,682
Shelter - Greene County	40 individuals served	72 individuals served
Shelter - Columbia County	126 individuals served	132 individuals served
Greene - Orders of Protection	60	91
Columbia - Orders of Protection	69	74
VITA	257 tax returns, \$323,000 in refunds	229 tax returns, \$282,809 in refunds
Weatherization	45 households	42 households, 72 persons
Thrift Store	4 CWEP volunteers, 115.75 hours, 4 community volunteers, 110.25 hours, 5 youth Interns, 354 donations worth \$72,973.	10 CWEP volunteers, 286.5 hours, 21 community volunteers, 361.25hours, 3 youth Interns, 627 donations worth \$156,609.
Here Comes Christmas	441 children served	178 families 440 children served
Back o School	125 children served	81 families, 208 backpacks distributed
HUD Permanent Supportive Housing	2 chronically homeless, 3 families affected by domestic violence maintain permanent housing	2 chronically homeless, 3 families affected by domestic violence maintain permanent housing
Greene - Crime Victim Advocacy Program	34 individuals served	21 individuals served
Columbia - Crime Victim Advocacy Program	26 individuals served	41 individuals served
Orders of Protection	42 individuals served	

Purchase

Fresh**Produce**

with your SNAP Benefits

Choose from Two Sizes!

1 Person

\$14

2-3 People

\$23Learn What's in the Bag Friday
Order by Monday AfternoonPick-up Thursday 1pm - 4pm:
Community Action, CatskillPick-up Friday 10am - 3pm:
Prattsville Arts Center

Call
518-943-9205
to place your order today!



Need a

**Helping
Hand?**

cagcny.org | 518-943-9205

COMMUNITY**ACTION**

of Greene County, Inc.

Don't Forget to Visit Our **Pay It Forward Community Thrift**
Store for Clothing and Much More!



Financial Empowerment Emergency Matched Savings Program

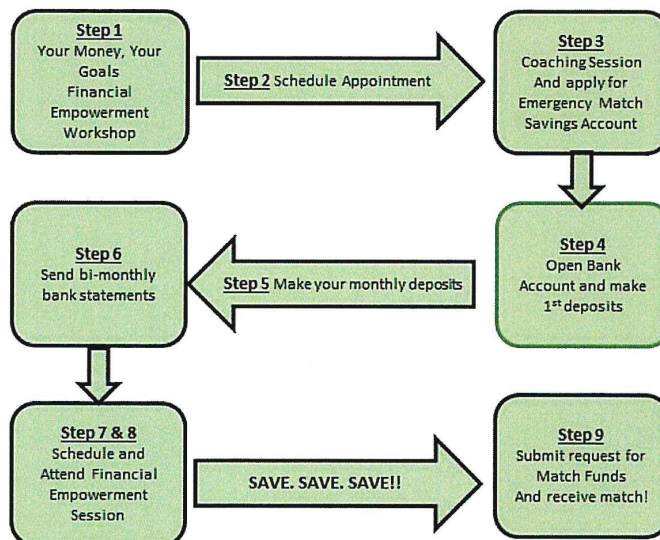
Community Action of Greene County, Inc., 7856 Route 9W, Catskill, NY 12414

Eligible household meeting 120% or less of total household area median income								
Greene County Median Income 120%								
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
120%	\$42,912	\$49,056	\$55,200	\$61,248	\$66,240	\$71,136	\$76,032	\$80,928

Tier 1	
You Deposit + Match	
Month 1:	\$50
Month 2:	\$50
Month 3:	\$50
Month 4:	\$50
Month 5:	\$50
Month 6:	\$50 + \$300
Month 7:	\$50
Month 8:	\$50
Month 9:	\$50
Month 10:	\$50
Month 11:	\$50
Month 12:	\$50 + \$100
Total:	\$600+ \$400
Total Savings \$1000!	

Continue to save and receive a \$100 bonus!

We will MATCH your savings



Tier 2	
You Deposit + Match	
Month 1:	\$25
Month 2:	\$25
Month 3:	\$25
Month 4:	\$25
Month 5:	\$25
Month 6:	\$25 + \$150
Month 7:	\$25
Month 8:	\$25
Month 9:	\$25
Month 10:	\$25
Month 11:	\$25
Month 12:	\$25 + \$50
Total:	\$300 + \$150 + \$50
Total Savings \$500!	

Continue to save and receive a \$50 bonus!



Agency staff and Board President John Bowen enjoy the annual Holiday Luncheon at Atelier Restaurant in Catskill.



One of the many outreach events we participate in, including the Greene County Youth Fair, Greene County Senior Day, Golden Gathering, Coxsackie Farmers' Market, Out of the Darkness Walk, Greene County Women's Expo, etc.



Bill Williams of ClearChannel Radio with staff at the Stuff The Bus Food Drive at the Catskill Price Chopper in November



Staff and volunteers prepare for our 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner held in partnership with, and at, Catskill Elks Lodge #1341. 111 homebound persons received a hot delivered meal, as well as decorations prepared by students of the Catskill Wheelhouse.



Ad on Greene County Transit Bus for Domestic Violence Awareness Month-October



Executive Director Florence Ohle accepts a toy donation from Aidan O'Connor Jr. and Doreen Davis of the Greene County Democratic Committee



7856 Route 9W, Catskill, NY 12414

Creating Opportunities... Fighting Poverty... Changing Lives

Our Story

Community Action of Greene County, Inc. is the designated anti-poverty agency serving all of Greene County. The Agency also serves Columbia County through its Domestic Violence & Victim Advocacy Programs. Through a variety of community service programs and emergency services aimed at assisting low income and vulnerable populations achieve self-sufficiency, we strive toward our mission of "Creating Opportunities, Fighting Poverty, Changing Lives." We are part of more than 1,000 local, private non-profit and public agencies that work together to implement ways to end poverty and empower low-income families in communities throughout the United States. Community Action of Greene County, Inc. links human service resources throughout our service area to provide leadership and serve the specific needs of each community.

Our Goals Are to Help

- Individuals & Families Become Self-Sufficient
- Improve The Conditions in Which People Live
- Develop Partnerships Among Supporters & Providers of Services
- Increase Our Agency's Capacity to Achieve Results