

2010-2011 Annual Report



Helping People. Changing Lives.

Community Action, Inc.

(Serving Clarion and Jefferson Counties)

www.jccap.org

Our Mission

To provide and coordinate activities which alleviate poverty, promote family self-sufficiency and advance community

Our Vision

To be recognized as a premier organization dedicated to solving social and economic problems of the community

From Our President and Executive

This has been another very challenging year for Community Action, Inc. primarily due to federal and state budget turbulence and the long-term effects of the 2008 economic disaster on our rural communities, small businesses and families. However, Community Action is not new to change – in fact, for the past 46 years our survival and successes have been directly related to our uniqueness to adapt and remain responsive to ever changing community needs despite financial highs and lows.

During this past year we touched the lives of approximately 7,800 residents through a mix of advocacy, direct services and community development. Our accomplishments are attributed to the hard work of our committed staff, our dedicated board of directors and our community partners.

Community Action, Inc. remains committed to working smarter to help families become economically independent, create community solutions and contribute to community prosperity.



Richard G. Fetterman
Board President



Robert A. Cardamone
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Clarion County

Low-Income Representatives

Clara W. Belloit, Clarion Ministerium
Lori A. Brown, Clarion County Housing Authority
Renee Vowinkel, Pennies From Heaven

Elected Public Officials

Donna R. Oberlander, State Representative
Timothy Reddinger, Clarion County Commissioner
Tonya Sterner, Representing State Senator Mary Jo White

Private Sector

Gregory E. Pacelli, Clarion County Assistance Office
Lee N. Stewart, Stewart Laboratories³
Ronald J. Wilshire, Clarion University of Pennsylvania²

Jefferson County

Low-Income Representatives

Pamela M. Johnson, Jefferson-Clarion Head Start, Inc.⁴
Richard G. Fetterman, Shriners of North America¹
Steven Mehok, Jefferson County Housing Authority

Elected Public Officials

James P. McIntyre, Jefferson County Commissioner
John Hallman, Punxsutawney Mayor Wehrle's Appointee
Samuel H. Smith, State Representative

Private Sector

David N. Gillespie, Banking Consultant
Granville E. Carter, Laurel Legal Services
Rebecca Mitchell, Jefferson County Assistance Office

¹ President ² Vice-President ³ Secretary/Treasurer ⁴ Assistant Secretary

Economic Impact on the Community

Wages contributed to the local economy	\$1,830,415
Real estate and payroll taxes contributed to local economy	\$141,545
Purchase of goods and services from local vendors	\$145,410
Social services & direct assistance to consumers/tenants	\$4,653,616
In-kind and volunteer services	\$108,434
Current value of all real estate held	\$666,423

Proclamation

May 2011 National Community Action Month

WHEREAS, community action agencies were created by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to help communities eradicate poverty; and

WHEREAS, the local community action agency, Community Action, Inc., has a 46-year history of advancing family self-sufficiency and empowering people to help themselves and their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., continues to make an essential contribution to Clarion County by providing these services, opportunities and actions to improve their lives and the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., is committed to advancing the work readiness, work ethic and financial literacy of our youth; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., is dedicated to providing for low-wage workers, those seeking employment security, retirees and the disabled; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., is committed to providing community assistance through financial, health, housing and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., Clarion County, the State of Pennsylvania, and the entire United States stand united in providing opportunities for all citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the important work Community Action, Inc., continues to perform in Clarion County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the twenty neighboring counties,

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

Donald C. Miller
David Cardamone
Clarion

Clarion County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

May 2011 National Community Action Month

WHEREAS, community action agencies were created by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to help communities eradicate poverty; and

WHEREAS, the local community action agency, Community Action, Inc., has a 46-year history of advancing family self-sufficiency and empowering people to help themselves and their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., continues to make an essential contribution to Jefferson County by providing these services, opportunities and actions to improve their lives and the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., is committed to advancing the work readiness, work ethic and financial literacy of our youth; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., is dedicated to providing for low-wage workers, those seeking employment security, retirees and the disabled; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., is committed to providing community assistance through financial, health, housing and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, Community Action, Inc., Jefferson County, the State of Pennsylvania, and the entire United States stand united in providing opportunities for all citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the important work Community Action, Inc., continues to perform in Jefferson County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the twenty neighboring counties,

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

Paul C. Cook
James Eckstein
Jefferson

Jefferson County, Pennsylvania

Services Provided



Advocacy

Raises awareness and collaborates to achieve change or a specific outcome.



Adult Education

Provides adult instruction via tutor or in a classroom/computer lab setting to: improve reading, math and computer skills; enhance job readiness; conduct career exploration; and prepare for the General Educational Development (GED) test. Support services and case management are also available.



Case Management

Assisted by a Case Manager, persons develop individual and family goal plans and work toward achieving economic independence.



Child Care Information Services

Helps eligible families pay for child care expenses at their chosen provider. Offers customized child care provider listings upon request. Provides "getting started" information to persons interested in opening a child care facility. Offers community resource and referral services to all families.



Community Development

Empowers individuals and partners with others to improve the community.



Domestic Violence Intervention/Prevention

Provides victims of domestic violence and their children emergency shelter, 24-hour hotline, community and school educational programs, options counseling, legal advocacy and group support.

LEARN

Engages families and the community to improve our children's quality of life. Helps families identify quality early care and education programs, assists child care providers and educators with resource development, helps child care providers obtain Keystone STARS status, provides professional development opportunity referrals to parents and child care providers and provides guidance to potential child care providers.



Energy Conservation & Weatherization Project

Installs materials to reduce home energy consumption; also provides energy conservation education.



Family/Food Services

Provides limited help for rent, mortgage, utility bills and food. Offers assistance with the completion of food stamp applications.



Homeless Services

Provides homeless emergency shelter, transitional housing, help with locating and establishing a new residence and case management.



Information Technology

Provides software development and technology consulting.



Medical Transportation

Provides non-emergency mileage reimbursement and transportation services to enrolled Jefferson County residents with a valid Department of Public Welfare PA Access card. Enrollees must be traveling to and from a medical assistance covered service.



New Choices Career Development

A career development program designed to prepare individuals for a new career. The curriculum includes: Computer Training; Career Assessment; Personal Development; Job/Training Search Skills; Decision Making; Problem Solving; Entrepreneurship; and much more. Vocational counseling is also provided to help participants plan their next steps to obtaining a new career.



Parenting Services

Provides parenting education, advocacy and support through a facilitated parent leadership model. Groups are held weekly and telephone support is available through a 24-hour hotline.



Senior Corps-RSVP

Utilizes talents of people ages 55 and over to meet community needs. Senior Corps - RSVP Volunteers choose activities relating to their skills, interest and time availability. Volunteers mentor children, conduct environmental tests, perform clerical duties, assist the elderly, tutor adults and much more.



Youth Opportunities

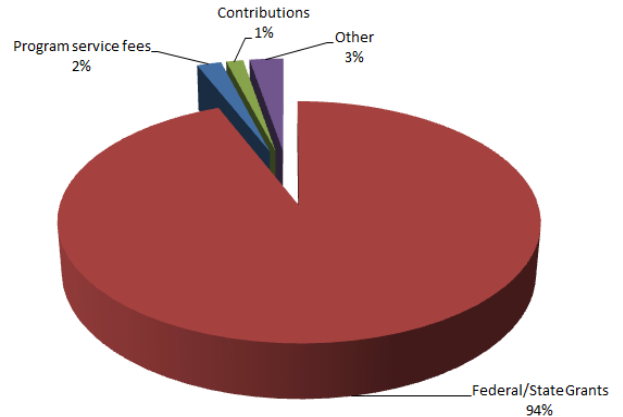
Provides youth with mentoring activities, financial literacy, career assessments, vocational instruction and work readiness education and skills.

Audited Statement of Financials

Support and Revenues:

Federal/State Grants	\$ 7,333,337
Program service fees	154,916
Contributions	107,876
Other	
- Rental income	56,494
- Contributed property	36,018
- In-kind contributions	34,952
- Gains or disposal of fixed assets	25,165
- Investment income or loss	20,682
- Technology consulting services	19,740
- Miscellaneous income	19,233
- Special events	565
Total Revenues	\$ 7,808,978

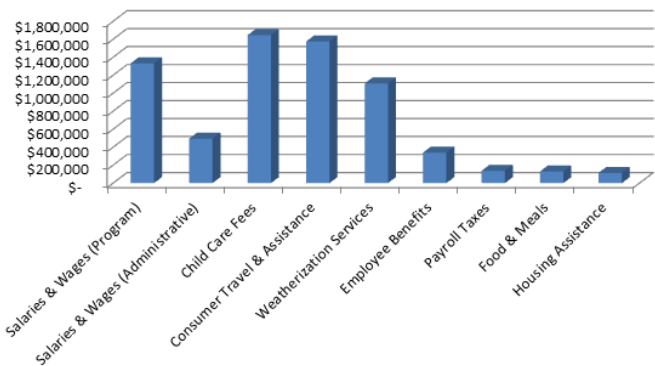
Support and Revenues



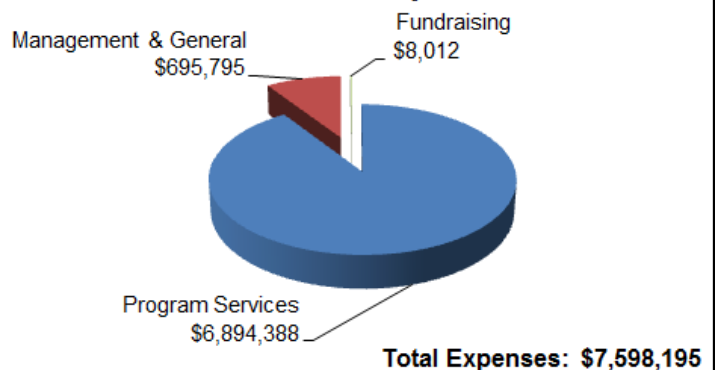
Expenses

Advertising & Publications	\$ 9,975
Auto Expenses	10,579
Child Care Fees	1,646,348
Consumer Support	15,142
Consumer Travel & Assistance	1,574,323
Contracted Services	35,924
Depreciation	16,534
Employee Benefits	340,038
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	4,786
Food Assistance	129,918
Housing Assistance	113,718
Human Resources & Fiscal Services *	14,751
Information Technology *	20,928
Insurance	29,474
License & Registration	7,568
Meetings	5,163
Miscellaneous	11,512
Occupancy *	96,684
Participant Subsidized Wages/Fringes	66,243
Payroll Taxes	137,358
PCADV Administrative Fee	5,988
Pension Plan Contribution	28,842
Postage *	20,294
Printing & Copying *	16,050
Rental Property Expense	4,187
Salaries & Wages	1,830,415
Small Equipment & Tools	47,185
Supplies	92,275
Telephone *	40,403
Training & Technical Assistance	14,756
Travel	66,230
Utilities	27,681
Volunteer Support	8,999
Weatherization Services	1,107,924
Expenses Total	\$ 7,598,195

Expense Breakdown



Functional Expenses



All persons are provided services without regard to race, color, religious creed, age, sex, ancestry, union membership, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, disability and without regard to whether the person is a victim of a violent crime (including domestic violence). Equal Opportunity Employer.

This document was financed in part by a grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services under the Administration of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.

* Excludes Wages & Benefits

Self-Sufficiency Award Winner

The Long Walk

In May 2007, Tom Nist walked approximately seven miles to the Community Action, Inc. (CAI) office in Punxsutawney. Almost four years later, he walked into his own apartment.

Tom's journey has been fraught with challenges, obstacles and even some setbacks but with the help of others and a phenomenal demonstration of determination, Tom has accomplished his goal of self-sufficiency and he is an inspiration to all who were witness to his journey.

Unemployment, exhausted benefits and fruitless job search resulted in Tom facing homelessness in the spring of 2007. Tom was estranged from his family and the hospitality of his friends was wearing thin so he made the decision to ask for help from CAI. Tom met with Cheryl Craft, Case Manager for the homeless shelter. After a brief stay in CAI's thirty-day emergency shelter, Tom moved to Transitional Housing in Clarion. During his stay, Tom continued his search for employment, updated his resume and profile at the Clarion County CareerLink and, with Ms. Craft's help, applied for and received food stamps. Tom also enrolled in a job preparation program through CareerLink and CAI's New Choices Career Development Project.

Tom also had a criminal history related to traffic violations and bad check summaries and was placed in the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) Program. He had fines to pay and regular appointments with a probation officer. Since Tom was still unable to find employment, his probation officer arranged for community service to offset his fines. Tom completed his community service at CAI then continued to volunteer -- cleaning the office, distributing food vouchers and assisting with Pennies from Heaven, a holiday program for underprivileged children.

During Tom's time in Transitional Housing, he was able to confront another obstacle to employment. Tom had a severe dental problem and a lump on the interior and exterior of his cheek hindering his chances for employment. With funding made available through CAI's Transitional Housing Project, Tom was able to have the dental procedures necessary to improve his health and also make a much more favorable first impression on prospective employers.

Tom's case manager continued to help him move toward self-sufficiency. Tom took advantage of computer classes offered by CAI's Adult Education Project. Cheryl helped Tom to get a number of important documents he would need to obtain employment.

Thirteen months later, Tom was back in CAI's Clarion Transitional Housing and once again on probation due to his fines. To increase his chances of obtaining employment, Tom enrolled in CAI's Comprehensive Employment Support Services Project (CESSP) which helped expand Tom's job search resources.

In July of 2010, Tom's future began to look brighter. He acquired a temporary position as part of the remodel crew at the Clarion Wal-Mart. In order to start employment, Tom needed a social security card and photo identification. CESSP was able to assist Tom in applying for assistance through Charitable Deeds to renew his driver's license and pay off a past-due fine to PennDOT. Still, Tom was still unable to receive his driver's license until his six-month suspension was completed.

With Tom's first paycheck, he paid off his probation fines to Clarion County, effectively removing him from probation. Toward the end of his temporary employment, Tom applied for and was offered a full-time, permanent position with Wal-Mart. Still without a driver's license, Tom walked the six miles to and from work each day on the 11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. shift to avoid taxi fare and maximize his limited resources. As testament to his strong work ethic and excellent job performance, Tom received a promotion and a raise after only three months on the job. As of August 22, 2011, Tom received an exceptional yearly employment evaluation resulting in another pay raise, health and retirement benefits and vacation time.

On March 31, 2011, Tom walked out of the Transitional Housing Project and walked into not just his own apartment but a whole new life. "If it wasn't for the help and support of Community Action, Inc., I wouldn't be where I am today. When I came here, I had nothing; I was nothing. But now, I've come so far. I couldn't have done it without the folks at Community Action." In May 2011, through the encouragement of his Case Manager, Tom began the process to mend his relationship with his family and is now able to share his success with them. They are very proud of him.

Tom continues to volunteer whenever his help is needed and is an inspiration to others facing the rough road to self-sufficiency.



Community Action, Inc. has helped thousands of people work towards self-sufficiency since we opened in 1965.

Each year with your help....

- we serve approximately 7,800 Clarion and Jefferson County residents.
- we assist over 1,200 Clearfield and Jefferson County domestic violence victims.
- we distribute food vouchers to over 2,200 of your neighbors to ensure they have adequate, nutritious food.
- we arrange transportation for more than 1,700 consumers to medical appointments.

WISH LIST:

- \$25** - provides budget counseling for one family.
- \$50** - provides clothing/holiday gifts for one child.
- \$202** - provides assistance for one man to live in shelter for 30 days.
- \$225** - provides food assistance to a family of four for one week.
- \$253** - provides heat for one month to a family not qualifying for subsidy heating programs.
- \$500** - provides a family with housing for one month.
- \$658** - provides books and instruction to help an individual prepare to take the General Education Development (GED) test.
- \$759** - provides assistance for one month to a family living in shelter due to domestic violence.
- \$1,012** - provides one year of case management for a family.

Local funds are vital to helping families in Clarion and Jefferson Counties. To help us help others in your community, please return this form and your contribution to one of our locations. A secure donation can also be made through our website.

**Community Action, Inc., 105 Grace Way, Punxsutawney, PA 15767
or 30A South Sheridan Road, Clarion, PA 16214**

YES, I/We want to support Community Action, Inc. and local families through this tax deductible gift of:

\$25 _____ **\$50** _____ **\$100** _____ **\$200** _____ **\$500** _____ **\$1,000** _____ **other \$** _____

() Please use my donation where it will help most, or () please use my donation for _____

() I would like to volunteer my time. My interests are _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Your donation may be tax deductible. Tax deductible means you can deduct the contribution on your federal income tax return because Community Action, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt charitable corporation.

The official registration and financial information of Community Action, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

National Goals

- Low-income people become more self-sufficient
- Conditions in which low-income people live are improved
- Low-income people own a stake in the community
- Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved
- Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results
- Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive services

