



FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend,

I am in my office, exhausted but exhilarated and inspired after spending Saturday at the Women's March on Washington. 500,000 people, crowded, tired, and hungry but unfailingly polite, respectful and kind. 500,000 people and not a single arrest, not a broken window or single act of aggression. It was a beautiful display of "girl power," complete with pink hats and signs and banners both amusing and heartbreaking. And while there was certainly anger at the threats we are facing, the more prevalent sentiments were determination and joy in knowing we were coming together with millions of women around the world. The power of being part of a global movement, from Antarctica to Alaska, on every continent, and in cities large and small, reminded us that the power of our democracy lies in "We the people" and when we stand up and make our voices heard, we are on the road to fulfilling the American dream of justice and opportunity for all.

At the rally before the march, we were given courage by six year old Sophie Cruz, an immigrant activist whose message of hope, tolerance and resiliency demanded that we act. We shared the pain of the mothers of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland and far too many other mothers whose children are not alive to join the march. We heard from feminist icons like Gloria Steinem, members of congress including New York's own Kirsten Gillibrand, celebrities, public officials, and women representing native people, LGBTQ people, people of color, disabled people, environmental activists, Muslim women and people from every faith and background. And in our glorious diversity we were connected by the simple notion that "women's rights are human rights" and the knowledge that none of us are free unless we are all free. As we made our way home, we committed ourselves to making sure that this was not a day that becomes a fond memory but that it is instead the beginning of a new period of activism and

advocacy. We committed ourselves to speaking the truth about our lives, our communities, and public policies and actions that threaten our freedom.

Taking action in defense of freedom, justice and opportunity is not only the work of the women's movement, civil rights movement or immigration activists. It is the work of Community Action. It is the work we are called to by the Community Action promise. It is the work we commit to, to make America a better place to live. It is the work of the mothers and fathers of the Community Action movement who came together to make real the promise of equal opportunity for all. It is the work of each and every one of us, the way we honor those who came before us and the way we will make real the promises we make to our children and generations to come.

It is with gratitude and humility that I recommit myself to the cause of women's rights, human rights and equality for all. Fighting poverty and supporting low income people and communities is core to the struggle for equality and our national community action network has never been more important. Our collective voice can give us power and strength. We will surely face trying times in the years ahead but I am more convinced than ever that together, we will prevail, justice will prevail and the promise of America will be real for all.

Karla M. Digirolamo

[E-mail me](#)

Karla Digirolamo, CCAP
NYSCAA

NYSCAA News!

11th Annual Poverty Symposium



Registration for NYSCAA's 11th Annual Symposium on Poverty & Economic Security is open!

The event will start with a tour of CEO's facilities on Tuesday, March 28 and follow with an early registration and reception at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy.

[Click here](#) to read more details about the event and register!
[Click here](#) to view the draft

agenda.

NYSCAA in CA

CEO, Karla Digirolamo and Director of Performance Management Services, Francesca Sommer attended the Partnership's Management, Leadership, and Training Conference in Long Beach, CA last week. The conference focused on transformation within

Regional Meetings

The 2017 Regional Meeting dates and locations are set and we'd like to hear from you about the agenda!

[Click here](#) to view the schedule and follow the links to register for your closest location.

Community Action and hosted a series of educational sessions and workshops that encompassed their conference theme. Both Karla and Francesca have returned with exciting new ideas and adventures for the NYSCAA team!



NYSCAA is Hiring!

NYSCAA is hiring for a Director of Finance. The position is responsible for managing NYSCAA's accounting systems, developing the annual operating budget, fulfilling fiscal reporting requirements, and for NYSCAA's basic human resources functions. Additional requirements are a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, three to five years' experience with nonprofit accounting, and proficiency with fund accounting software. [Click here](#) to read the full job description and apply. The deadline to submit your application is January 31, 2017.

[Click here](#) to take a short survey on what topics you'd like addressed at the Regional Meetings.

Restore Opportunity Now!

NYSCAA sits on the Human Services Council's (HSC) Restore Opportunity Now Advisory Committee and we attended the first committee meeting held in Albany earlier this month. The agenda discussed HSC's legislative and budget priorities, a presentation on the minimum wage increase from Department of Labor, and an update from the Fiscal Policy Institute. The Restore Opportunity Now Campaign is a statewide call for crucial investments and systematic changes to strengthen NY's nonprofit human services sector. The coalition has over 300 members throughout New York and we encourage all of our Community Action Agencies to join the coalition. [Click here](#) to sign on now!

National Day of Racial Healing



The National Day of Racial Healing was January 17; the day was initiated to help heal the wounds created by racial, ethnic, and religious bias and build an equitable and just society where all children can thrive. NYSCAA fully supports the National Day of Racial Healing. [Click here](#) to see how you can get involved more than just one day a year.

Updates at our Agencies!

Saratoga EOC's New Executive Director

Please join us in congratulating Jo Anne Hume as the new Executive Director at Saratoga County EOC, Inc. Jo Anne started at EOC in January 2012 and had previously served in the capacity of Deputy Director and Director of Finance and Human Resources until recently when she was promoted to Interim-Executive

Feed the Need

The "Feed the Need" event attracted more than 250 people and raised over \$9,500.00 for Wyoming County Community Action, Inc. The gala brought together area residents, officials, and high school students to support the agency with live cooking stations and real-world experience all while getting them in touch with potential future employers.

Director. Jo Anne possesses a bachelor's degree from Boston College and has held a number of senior-level positions in both the governmental and private industry sectors. EOC will be planning a series of events and communications to formally introduce Jo Anne to the community in early 2017.



Together We Dine

EOP of Chemung and Schuyler Counties held their 19th annual "Together We Dine" community dinner. Hundreds of people from the community shared a free turkey dinner together at the Ernie Davis Community Center in Elmira. EOP staff and volunteers served and delivered the free meals to needy, homeless, elderly, and home-bound members of the community.



Holiday Cards

Children in Schenectady's Early Learning program made greeting cards as part of their Third Annual Holiday Card Giving. This year, the cards were given to families in need throughout Schenectady County.



In the News

FrameWorks Institute - Changing the Conversation on Social Issues. The mission of FrameWorks Institute is to advance the nonprofit sector's communications capacity by identifying, translating, and modeling relevant scholarly research to frame the public discourse on social problems. FrameWorks designs, conducts, and publishes multi-method, multi-disciplinary communications research to empirically identify the most effective ways of re-framing social and scientific topics. Recognizing that there is more than one way to tell a story, Strategic Frame Analysis taps into decades of research on how people think and communicate. Framing refers to the subtle selection of certain aspects of an issue in order to cue a specific response. As researchers have shown, the way an issue is framed explains who is responsible and suggests potential solutions conveyed by images, stereotypes, messengers, and metaphors. [Click here](#) to watch a short video on the FrameWorks Institute.

Holy Cow MOOvement. The Community Action Association of Pennsylvania is teaming up with the North Carolina Community Action Association in support of their Holy Cow! Let's End Poverty branding campaign. The branding strategy incorporates education and social media while addressing the heavy topic of poverty with a more approachable and lighthearted tone. The goal of the campaign is to uncover a creative and unique way to raise awareness about the issues low-income families face while generating donations for your organization. [Click here](#) to



find further information and join the MOOVement!

The Department of Energy is asking for constructive feedback. Local Weatherization sub-grantees are being asked to submit anonymous, constructive feedback on the performance of State WAP grantees through a national survey. All Weatherization sub-grantees should have recently received a survey from the CFI email on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program. Local weatherization agencies can rate their state office's performance using the link provided to their weatherization contact - each agency has their own unique access link to complete the survey. [Click here](#) to read the Weatherization Memorandum 23 released on January 9, 2017. We encourage agencies operating a Weatherization Assistance Program to take advantage of the opportunity. The deadline to submit your survey is January 24, 2017.

ROMA Next Gen/CSBG Annual Report. Earlier this month, the Office of Community Services received clearance from OMB for the ROMA Next Gen/CSBG Annual Report. We understand that no changes were made to the package submitted for the last 30-day comment period. [Click here](#) to review the package. As we learn more, we will make sure to keep you informed and updated.

Webinars & Conferences:

NYSCAA Conferences:

11th Annual Symposium on Poverty & Economic Security
March 28 & 29, 2017

[Hilton Garden Inn](#) - Troy, NY

[Click here](#) to register!

2017 Regional Meetings

[Click here](#) to view the 2017 Regional Meeting locations & schedule

2017 June Professional Development Conference

June 1-2, 2017

[High Peaks Resort](#), NY

RPIC Region II: Finance, Human Resources, and Leadership Conference

September 21-22, 2017

[The Heldrich Hotel](#), New Brunswick, New Jersey

Registration information to come!

Executive Director's Seminar

November 9-10, 2017

[The Sagamore Resort](#), Lake George, NY

Registration information to come!

NYSCAA Webinars/Training (free!):

IT Webinar: Basic Survey Monkey

February 8, 2017

10:00 - 11:00 AM EST

[Click here](#) to learn more and to register

IT Webinar: Intermediate Survey Monkey

March 8, 2017

10:00 - 11:00 AM EST

[Click here](#) to learn more and to register

Webinar: The Why & How of Social Media

July 18, 2017

10:00 - 11:00 AM

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

Upcoming Events:

2017 NCAF Legislative Conference

March 14-17, 2017

Washington, DC

[Click here](#) to register

2017 NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference

March 27-31, 2017

Arlington, VA

2017 NYS Anti-Hunger Conference, Hunger Solutions NY

May 17, 2017

Albany Capital Center, Albany NY

2017 CAPLAW National Training Conference

June 7-9, 2017

Denver, CO

Registration opens in February

NYSCAA Help Desk:

Have a tech question? The NYSCAA Help Desk is open to all NYSCAA Members. Call

Phoebe Schimpf at 518-690-0491 x 28 or submit an inquiry [here](#).

Tech Tip: Gmail Phishing Scam

One of the most effective phishing scams is out now...and especially targets Gmail users.

Those using Gmail, or google apps, should take a moment to read [this](#).

Survey Monkey - Hidden Gems

Did you know that you can have your survey respondents upload documents or images?

Or that you can embed videos in your surveys? Or have respondents react to images

instead of text? [Attend one of our free Survey Monkey webinars to learn more!](#)

FACT OF THE MONTH:

The poverty rate for New York State is 15.7%. [Click here](#) to find out more in your county.

Trivia!

What's the Year?

1. Lance Armstrong wins his first Tour de France
2. Super Bowl XXXIII: Denver Broncos beats Atlanta Falcons 34-19
3. October 12: The Day of Six Billion: the proclaimed 6 billionth living human in the world is born
4. U.S. women's soccer team wins the FIFA Women's World Cup
5. My Space was officially introduced to the Internet
6. Mattel's Barbie Doll celebrates it's 40th Birthday
7. Two boys kill 12 fellow students, a teacher and themselves at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado
8. "Family Guy" first airs on Fox
9. Impeachment proceedings are brought against President Bill Clinton
10. Hip Hop artist Eminem releases his first major record album 'The Slim Shady LP'

The year is 1999

Riddle Me This!

There more there is the less you see.

The answer is darkness

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Click on Name of Agency to Visit Website: [Action for a Better Community, Inc.](#) * [Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.](#) * [Albany Community Action Partnership](#) * [ACCORD Corporation](#) * [CACHE \(Community Action Commission to Help the Economy Inc.\)](#) * [CAPC of Jefferson County](#) * [Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [Chautauqua Opportunities Inc.](#) * [Columbia Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Capital District Region, Inc.](#) * [Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc.](#) * [Community Action of Greene County, Inc.](#) * [Community Action of Orleans & Genesee](#) * [Community Action Partnership for Madison County, Inc.](#) * [Cortland Community Action Program, Inc. \(CAPCO\)](#) * [Delaware Opportunities](#) * [Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [Economic Opportunity Program Inc. of Chemung County](#) * [EOC of Nassau County - Hempstead](#) * [EOC of Suffolk - Patchogue](#) * [Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties](#) * [Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Livingston County Planning Department](#) * [Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [NYC Department of Youth and Community Development](#) * [Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Broome, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Chenango, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.](#) * [Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Path Stone PEACE, Inc.](#) * [Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.](#) * [RECAP](#) * [Saratoga County EOC, Inc.](#) * [Schenectady Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.](#) * [St. Lawrence County Community Development Program,](#)

Inc. * Tioga Opportunities, Inc. * Tompkins Community Action, Inc. * Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. * Warren/Hamilton Counties ACEO, Inc. * Washington County EOC, Inc. * WestCOP * Wayne County Community Action Program, Inc. * Wyoming County Community Action, Inc. * Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.<



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