



FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend,

You will see in this Newsletter just some of the activities and events that NYSCAA and the state's Community Action network have been engaged in this last month. From our Advocacy Day to the Emerging Leaders Program, planning for our Poverty Symposium and Annual Awards at our June Conference to our agencies' food drives, new Head Start classroom and exciting partnerships, it is clear once again that Community Action is on the move. But as I was sitting here deciding what I might want to say to you in this letter, an e-mail popped up with quotes for writers. Not only did this coincidence of timing strike me, but the first quote in the e-mail really spoke to me. "No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world," said Robin Williams. His life and tragic death demonstrated the profound power of words and ideas. Words that uplift and make you laugh. Ideas that challenge your imagination and intellect. And while I would never be so bold as to think my words alone can change the world, I do believe that the words and ideas each of us express as we do our work and live our lives can contribute to changing the world for the better. As you greet your customers with respect, dignity and even affection, you change their world for the better. As you speak up for your customers, some of whom are among the most marginalized people in our society, you change their world and ours for the better.

And it is the power of words and ideas that make the expressions of hatred and bigotry which we are hearing all too often these days, so frightening. Who among us does not remember being the target of an unkind word? Who among us doesn't remember with shame the unkind words we have spoken? With every new day and every word we speak, we have the power to change the world, especially if those words underlie the commitment to action that defines Community Action. So this month, I challenge myself and you to pay attention to the power of our words, to use words not as weapons but as tools to promote compassion, justice and equality. To use

words in a way that binds us together toward our common goals and for the common good. And in doing so, we will change the world, one word, one person, one day at a time. So, speak up. Be heard, be the change!

Karla M. Digirolamo

[E-mail me](#)

Karla Digirolamo, CCAP
NYSCAA

NYSCAA News!

11th Annual Poverty Symposium



[Register now](#) for NYSCAA's 11th Annual Symposium on Poverty & Economic Security!

The event will start with a tour of CEO's facilities on Tuesday, March 28, followed by an early registration and a 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.

Speaker Spotlight: This year our keynote speaker, Mark Winne will present "Finding our Way to Food Secure Communities in Insecure Times." The opening keynote will speak to finding solutions to the challenges of food insecurity, poor dietary health, and struggling economies over the coming years and propose thoughtful action within the spheres of your own communities.

Mark will also be joining us for our early registration and reception on March 28. NYSCAA will be providing all attendees with a copy of his book, *Closing the Food Gap*. Be sure to [register now](#) and join us for this great event!

CA Awards

NYSCAA's Community Action Awards are now open for nominations! We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize staff and members of the community for their support and accomplishments. Award recipients are recognized at the banquet dinner during NYSCAA's Professional Development Conference. This year the event will take place at the High Peaks Resort, June 1. [Click here](#) to nominate someone now!

2017 Poverty Report



NYSCAA's 2017 Poverty Report is complete and online for viewing! The report is designed to be a resource for New York's Community Action Agencies, community-based organizations, policy makers, advocates, community coalitions, and the general public. [Click here](#) to view the report.

Advocacy

Day

Last month NYSCAA hosted our first ever Advocacy Seminar at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY. We had a great turnout with 14 of our agencies who participated. A huge thank you to those that came! The highlight of the event was having Community



Action recognized on the floor of the assembly! This was a great way to recognize our Community Action network and all they accomplish.

ELI

February 9 & 10 we hosted our first in-person seminar for the 2017 ELI group. With this year's group being the biggest yet, we certainly had some challenges, but after the day and a half of educational workshops, team building activities, and fun games, the participants left on a very positive note and are ready for our next seminar in May!



Congratulations, Phoebe!

We are excited to announce our Director of I.T., Phoebe Schimpf, has been promoted to Deputy Director for NYSCAA. In her current role, Phoebe has proven a valuable and respected asset to the state's Community Action Network and our team at NYSCAA. We are looking forward to working with her in this new role. She will also continue to be our Director of IT. Please join us in congratulating Phoebe on this new opportunity!

Updates at our Agencies!

MVCAA Head Start

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency announced the opening of Head Start classrooms in Oneida and Morrisville this month. Pictured below is a ribbon cutting ceremony where children and families were welcomed by MVCAA staff.

Golden Girls

RECAP's Strike-Out Hunger Bowl-a-thon was featured in [Orange Magazine NY's](#) December/January issue. The event raised funds for their food pantry. Pictured at the event are Rachel Cox, Luisa Scott, Heather Decker, and Lynda Cordani. The "Golden Girls" won best dressed for the event.



Food Drive

Opportunities for Broome hosted a Food Distribution through the Food Bank of the Southern Tier this month. The food distribution was targeted for the elderly, but all were welcome to attend. They served over 30 people/families in need. The food consisted of fresh vegetables, yogurt, health shakes and juices, cereals, deli meats, potatoes, frozen bread, assortments of frozen meat entrees, and more!



Leggo my Lego

DYCD in partnership with the First Lego League, hosted a Leggo my Lego competition introducing robotics to roughly 150-200 fourth to eighth-grade students at 20 COMPASS program sites. Through this hands-on project-based competition, students learned about STEM concepts such as computational thinking, programming, mechanical engineering, and the engineering design life cycle. Skills critical to future success such as public speaking and teamwork were also worked on.



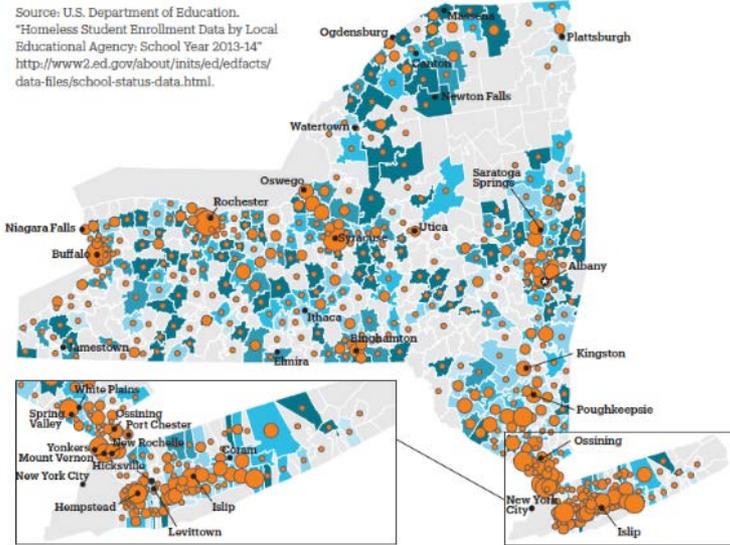
In the News

New York State Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2017-2018

Fiscal Policy Institute's Budget Report. The Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) has released its 27th annual state budget briefing book: New York State Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2017-2018. The report provides financial analysis and discussions on the Millionaires' Tax Extension, the Importance of Federal Funding in NYS, New York's Income Inequality and Tax Structure, Economic Development, Education, Human Services, Housing and Health, and more. A PDF version and other useful FPI publications related to this year's budget are available [here](#).

Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness. New York State has more than 116,000 homeless students statewide. In the 2013-2014 school year, New York had 2,732,770 students enrolled in 1,015 local school districts and 4.3% of the total enrollment were homeless. New York had the 2nd highest number of homeless students and the 3rd highest rate of homelessness in the U.S.

Source: U.S. Department of Education.
"Homeless Student Enrollment Data by Local
Educational Agency: School Year 2013-14"
[http://www2.ed.gov/about/initiatives/ed/facts/
data-files/school-status-data.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/initiatives/ed/facts/data-files/school-status-data.html).



The snapshot analyzes how many homeless students are enrolled in public schools in NYS, where in the state they reside, and how they perform in school compared to their peers. [Click here](#) to read the report.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Governor Cuomo has declared February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. New York State has joined the "Control Isn't Love" campaign to raise awareness of teen dating abuse. The campaign consists primarily of social media and electronic distribution of its components and intends to get teens thinking that some of the behaviors they may be experiencing or engaging in are not signs of love, but instead are signs of control and are considered forms of abuse. You can help raise awareness by displaying this poster throughout your school or organization. [Click here](#) to read more about teen dating violence and download promotional materials for the month.



Spring is Next Month! With Spring right around the corner, here are some creative spring fundraising ideas!

1. Spring Cleaning Garage Sale: Ask supporters to donate items that they'd ordinarily give away or sell to your organization's "garage sale."
2. March Madness Open House: An estimated 40 million Americans create March Madness brackets. Invite your community to join you at your office or a venue for a college basketball game screening.
3. April's Fool's Day Fundraiser: Forty percent of people are adamant participants in April Fool's pranks. Partner with local stand-up comedians or radio hosts and send an email campaign to appeal for donations.
4. Easter Egg Hunts: Set up at a public park and charge for registration. Sell tickets ahead of time to ensure you have enough supplies for all participating kids.
5. 5K or Road Cycle Race: As the weather improves, people will be excited for an opportunity to get outdoors after being cooped up all winter.

Check out this blog [here](#) to read details on the fundraising ideas above and get 20 more ideas!

Webinars & Conferences:

NYSCAA Conferences:

11th Annual Symposium on Poverty & Economic Security

March 29, 2017

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

[Click here](#) to register!

2017 Regional Meetings

[Click here](#) to view the 2017 Regional Meeting locations & schedule. [Click here](#) to take the survey on what you'd like this year's regional meetings to cover.

2017 June Professional Development Conference

June 1-2, 2017

[High Peaks Resort](#), NY

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

**** DATE CHANGE **** September 18 - 19, 2017

[The Helderich 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: 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

[Click here](#) to register

2017 NYS Anti-Hunger Conference, Hunger Solutions NY

May 17, 2017

Albany Capital Center, Albany NY

[Click here](#) to register

2017 CAPLAW National Training Conference

June 7-9, 2017

Denver, CO

Registration opens in February

The Community Action Partnership's Annual Convention

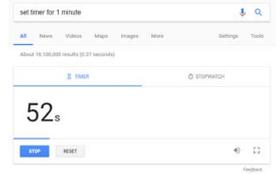
August 29 - September 1, 2017

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: Set a Timer in Google

Did you know you can set a timer in Google? You can go directly to google.com or just type "set timer for 1 minute" (or 5,6, 34 minutes etc.) in your browser's address bar. Google will count down the time and beep loudly when the time is up. You will need to leave the web page open for this to work. Want to learn more? [Click here](#).



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 hourly living wage for a one adult, one child household for NYS is \$27.16. [Click here](#) to find out more in your county.

Trivia!

What's the Year?

1. President Lyndon B. Johnson declares a War On Poverty Campaign
2. First Ford Mustang is manufactured
3. The most powerful earthquake in U.S. history at a magnitude of 9.2, strikes South Central Alaska
4. "Hello Dolly," "Funny Girl," and "Fiddler on the Roof" premier on Broadway in New York.
5. The Summer Olympics are held in Tokyo, Japan
6. Nelson Mandela and seven others are sentenced on June 12th to life imprisonment in South Africa
7. The Beatles hold the top five positions in the Billboard Top 40 hit singles in America
8. The first driver-less train runs on London Underground
9. The Star of India Sapphire was stolen from the American Museum of Natural History in New York
10. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr receives the Nobel Peace Prize

The year is 1964

Riddle Me This!

If you have it, you want to share it. If you share it, you don't have it.
What is it?

The answer is a secret

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.](#)

