



NYSCAA
Newsletter
March 2017



FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend,

I spent last week in Washington at the National Community Action Foundation's (NCAF) Annual Legislative Conference. While we were there, the President released his budget proposal, a proposal that calls for dramatic reduction or elimination of many social services programs, from Meals on Wheels to Head Start and a dizzying number of other essential programs including CSBG, weatherization, programs combatting violence against women, reproductive health care services, low-income legal services, affordable housing, energy services and much more. We visited members of New York's Congressional Delegation, from both parties, all of whom expressed support for CSBG and, most importantly, for the work you do in our local Community Action agencies every day.

While I am optimistic about our future, it is disheartening to see this proposal, especially after everyone in Community Action worked so hard in recent years to make clear the effectiveness and impact of the services provided by CAAs. David

Bradley, the CEO of NCAF, communicated to us his belief that we, Community Action, would survive this difficult time and after our meetings with members of Congress from both parties, I too am confident and optimistic about the future of Community Action. We were reassured by our Congress members and Senators that they are firmly committed to our survival. As I left Washington I was inspired and determined to be sure that we, at NYSCAA, do everything possible to ensure that Community Action remains the strong and vital force for good that it has been since its creation in 1964.

It is clear that this is a political environment unlike anything we have seen in the past but the work that the state and national CA network have done for so many years puts us in a strong position to be standing when the dust has cleared. You each can help by encouraging your friends, family, neighbors, customers and community to contact their representatives to let them know how important CA is to them and their communities. It is more important than ever that your representatives know you, the work you do and the value you have in their home communities and districts. Information highlighting the work of the national community action network can be found [by clicking here](#).

As you know all too well, this is not the first time Community Action has been threatened; we have a long history of taking hits and coming out intact. I trust we will do so again and look forward to many more years of working with you on this noble endeavor.



[E-mail me](#)

Karla Digirolamo, CCAP
NYSCAA

NYSCAA News!

11th Annual Poverty Symposium

POVERTY SYMPOSIUM

'17

There is still time to register and attend our 2017 Poverty Symposium!

11th ANNUAL

CAPTIVATE
EDUCATE
ENGAGE

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 agenda! The deadline to register

is March 23!

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT: Mid-Day Plenary - Barbara Nelson, Breathing Lights: Confronting Vacancy with Public Art
Breathing Lights was a temporary public art installation that illuminated the windows of hundreds of vacant homes in the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy this past October & November. Their goal was to create an evocative inclusive experience that transformed the perceptions of vacant buildings and showcased an art-based approach to stimulating local and regional revitalization. Barbara Nelson is the architect behind the project and her mid-day plenary will include a brief presentation on the production and impact of Breathing Lights and examples of other placemaking success stories. PlaceMaking is a term for the activation of public space through participatory planning and design practice. PlaceMaking is most successful when community members are empowered to make changes in their own neighborhoods, taking ownership and accepting stewardship of their public spaces. [Click here](#) to visit the Breathing Lights website and learn more.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: A huge thank you for all the generosity and support we received this year from our 2017 Poverty Symposium Sponsors!

SPONSORS!



CA Awards

Don't forget to check out NYSCAA's Community Action Awards! We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize staff and members of the community for their support and accomplishments. Winners are celebrated at NYSCAA's annual dinner and awards ceremony at the Professional Development Conference, June 1st.



[Click here](#) to nominate someone now!

Advocating in DC

Last week, NYSCAA's CEO Karla Digirolamo, headed down to Washington, D.C. with others from the Community Action Network to attend the National Community Action Foundation's 2017 Legislative Conference. NYSCAA scheduled meetings with Senator Gillibrand's and Senator Schumer's office to talk about our network and issues affecting low-income individuals.

Pictured is Bernie Sanders speaking to the network reminding all that despite the obstacles ahead, "Despair is not an option."

Training

After providing a half-day workshop for the executive management team of the Niskayuna School District last summer, NYSCAA was hired to provide poverty awareness training to all staff at Niskayuna's five elementary schools. Between January and March, over 200 teachers and school personnel attended workshops. While Niskayuna has historically been a community with little poverty, there has been a growing number of students from low-income households attending Niskayuna schools and the workshops will help teachers and others at the schools, work more effectively with their students and families. For further information regarding these training, contact our Program and Policy Director, Kim McMann by email at kmcmann@nyscommunityaction.org.



Visit from PR & NJ

In addition to NYSCAA's CSBG grant, we also receive direct funding from the Department of Health and Human Services as the lead agency in Region II for the federal Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC) grant. In addition to New York, Region II consists of New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Last week, NYSCAA provided training and technical assistance to the Directors of the State Associations in NJ and PR. Aliya Anderson-Smith is the Director of The Community Action Partnership for New Jersey, and Francisco Gutiérrez is the Director of Asociación de Agencias Comunales de Puerto Rico, Inc. The two-day visit incorporated a training for the Associations on compliance with our new T/TA grant and allowed for networking and further communications throughout Region II.

Good Luck, Kimberly!

NYSCAA is sorry to let everyone know that we will soon be saying good-bye and good luck to Kimberly Brisk, our Communications & Event Coordinator. We are excited about the new opportunities that lie ahead for Kimberly but will miss her a great deal. As you can see from the beautiful programs and materials she has designed to the terrific conferences she coordinates, Kimberly has been a great asset to us, with an attention to detail and eye for design that will be hard to replace. Please join us in saying farewell and thank you to Kimberly!

Congratulations, Judy!

In another goodbye, which was not unexpected but is still a loss for us, please join us in congratulating Judy Harris on her retirement. Judy has been a tremendous asset to our team for the past three years. Her hard work and dedication will definitely be missed. Judy will be retiring with her husband in Boston, MA and enjoying a well-deserved life of relaxation and time to do all those things she has been waiting to do! Enjoy, Judy!

Welcome, Suzette!

NYSCAA welcomes Suzette Washock as the new Director of Finance. Suzette is a proactive, performance-driven professional with 20 plus years of experience working with for-profit companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. She has a good understanding of accounting and general business practices and is committed to managing operations while contributing to revenue producing activities and non-profit missions. Join us in welcoming Suzette to our team!

Updates at our Agencies!

Otsego Donation!

Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.'s Children's Center was thrilled to receive an awesome donation of children's books, toys, school supplies, and more from the Marketing Club at SUNY Oneonta! The club members

CAO's Job Fair

Last month, CAO of Erie County, Inc. hosted their first job fair in 2017. The event was a huge success with over 45 companies that filled the JFK center with many opportunities for all who attended. A big shout out to their Employment and Training team for

donated every item on the children's wish list; what a great surprise!



ACAP Children Meet Garth Brooks!

Children of families enrolled in Albany Community Action Partnership's programs were invited to spend the day at a Pro Camp event held at UAlbany. Country Singer, Garth Brooks, attended the event and spent the afternoon helping coach 60 plus children from local community organizations.



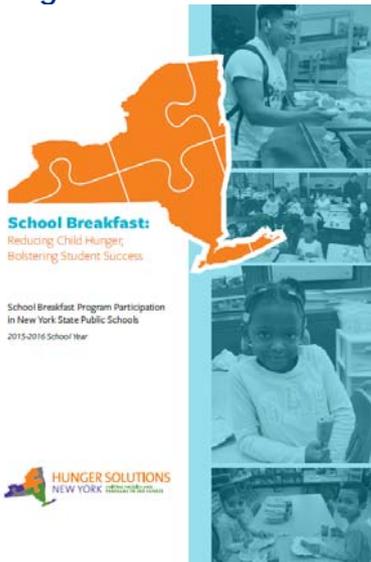
putting together an amazing job fair!



Headquarters Expansion

Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. received an award of \$551,838 through the NYS Non-Profit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program to offset building renovation costs related to the expansion of their headquarters at 89 York Street in Auburn. The expansion will accommodate agency growth and further support co-location of programs and services under one roof. Their Supervised Visitation/Safe Exchange Center is now located at their headquarters, along with Medicaid Transportation, Kinship Care Program, and Rapid Re-Housing of Homeless Families. Congratulations to CSCAA on this great opportunity.

Hunger Solutions Breakfast Report



Hunger Solutions New York produces an annual statewide report on school breakfast participation. This year's report reveals that school breakfast continues to be underutilized across New York State. While there has been growth in the program, it has been offset by the increasing number of students who qualify to eat school breakfast for free or at a reduced price. In the 2015-2016 school year, fewer than one in three students who qualified to eat free or reduced-price breakfast participated in the School Breakfast Program. Their [School Breakfast Report](#) includes state-level analysis of school breakfast participation, as well as district-level participation data. It identifies best practices for increasing breakfast participation, highlights successful school districts, and outlines action steps to broaden the reach of the School Breakfast Program, especially among low-income

students.

Save the Dates - LIFE Regional Meetings

The New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, in cooperation with the LIFE Steering Committee, have announced the 2017 Regional Meeting schedule. With seven meeting locations across the State, there is a convenient location for everyone to engage in the low-income energy dialogue. Attendees can expect:

- Updates on the NYS Public Service Commission's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative and NYSERDA's Clean Energy Fund (CEF).
- Discussion about emerging issues, best practices, and consumer protections.
- Information about current programs and innovative initiatives.
- Networking opportunities with professionals in the low-income energy field.

Visit nyserdera.ny.gov/LIFE, to stay current on meeting information, including venues, agendas, and scholarship opportunities.

- May 1, 2017 - New York City - Long Island City, Queens NY
- May 2, 2017 - Long Island - Melville NY
- May 10, 2017 - Western New York - Buffalo NY
- May 11, 2017 - Southern Tier - Corning NY
- May 16, 2017 - North Country - Watertown NY
- May 17, 2017 - Hudson Valley - Poughkeepsie NY
- May 23, 2017 - Capital District - Saratoga Springs NY

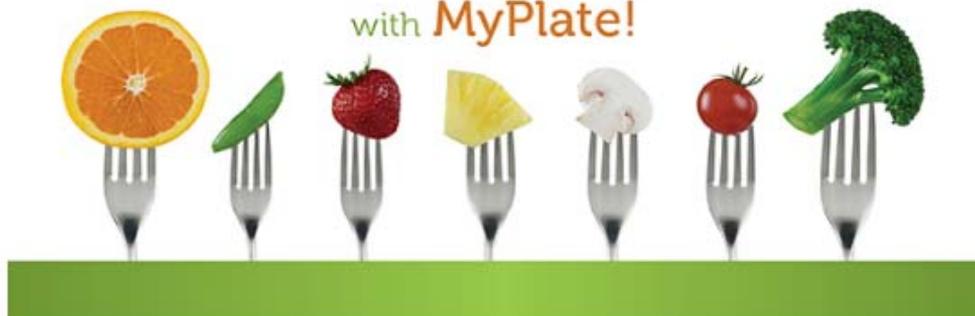
March is National Nutrition Month

Join the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ChooseMyPlate program in celebrating nutrition in March! Whether you are a dietitian, educator, parent or someone who

is just trying to eat a bit healthier, ChooseMyPlate has the resources to help you achieve your healthy eating goals this month and all year long! Visit their website to discover healthy eating solutions for everyday life with MyPlate, MyWins Tipsheets, interactive tools, MyPlate videos and more! [Click here](#) to learn more!

Celebrate National Nutrition Month®

with **MyPlate!**



NY CAA's Pilot New Housing Opportunity for Formerly Incarcerated

Schenectady Community Action, Inc., PEACE, Inc., and Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. were selected to participate in a pilot project announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to help formerly incarcerated New Yorkers safely reunite with their families. Housing authorities and New York State are responding to a call from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to allow carefully screened and monitored people with convictions to live in public housing with their families. NYS Department of State is providing funding for case management to track these individuals, and the Department of Correction and Community Supervision will monitor participants and undertake home visits as part of the normal course of parole supervision. These three Community Action Agencies will provide the case management services to enrollees and their family members. The public housing authorities will have the ability to review a number of important factors to help ensure that participants do not pose a public safety risk for their communities and residents. These factors include an individual's criminal background, their path to rehabilitation, and family structure. At the end of the pilot program, successful participants may return to the household on a permanent basis.

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

2017 June Professional Development Conference

June 1-2, 2017

[High Peaks Resort](#), NY

Registration information to come soon!

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

September 18 - 19, 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!):

Webinar: The Why & How of Social Media

July 18, 2017

10:00 - 11:00 AM

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

Beyond the Basics: Mapping and Community Needs Assessments in Community Commons

April 24, 2017

2:00 - 3:00 PM

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

Upcoming Events:

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

[Click here](#) to learn more

The Community Action Partnership's Annual Convention

August 29 - September 1, 2017

Philadelphia, PA

[Click here](#) for further information

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: Mapping Data on Community Commons and More

Community Commons provides public access to thousands of meaningful data layers that allow mapping and reporting capabilities so you can thoroughly explore community health. These maps add visual context to the data, allowing for better insight and better support of analysis and funding requests. In addition, NYSCAA Members can have their own data uploaded to maps – showing specific data points relevant to their own county's on maps. [Click here to learn more](#) about this tool and register for our webinar.



COMMUNITY COMMONS

FACT OF THE MONTH:

11.3% of the white population, 23.4% of the African American population, and 25.9% of the Hispanic/Latino population live in poverty in New York State. [Click here](#) to find out more in your county.

Trivia!

What's the Year?

1. Japan becomes the worlds largest auto producing country
2. Mount St. Helens erupts on May 18th in Washington killing 57
3. 3M begins sales of it's latest product Post-It Notes invented by Arthur Fry and Spencer Silver
4. Former Beatle John Lennon is shot to death
5. Ronald Reagan Elected President of the USA
6. Release of Pac-Man arcade game
7. The United States defeats the Soviet Union in ice hockey in what was labeled the "Miracle on Ice" during the Lake Placid Winter Olympics
8. The year's popular films include: Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back, Superman II, and Nine to Five
9. Severe Summer Heat Wave in Southern US Causes 1,117 deaths in 20 States
10. Jessica Simpson, Macaulay Culkin, and Isaac Hanson were all born in this year

The year is 1980

Riddle Me This!

What has a foot on each side and one in the middle?

The answer is a yardstick

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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