

CREATING **PATHWAYS** **OUT OF POVERTY**

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Community Action Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties commemorates its 50th year of service in 2015. That's 50 years of working towards the mission of "Creating Pathways Out of Poverty." If there has been one constant over the past 50 years, it is the change and evolution of the agency and our programs in response to the changing face of poverty in our communities.



Another big change that has occurred for Community Action this year is a change in our leadership. After an outstanding 12 years with Community Action, Lisa Furseth, Executive Director, left the agency at the end of 2014. I've been involved in various ways with Community Action in various capacities for nearly 10 of those years, and have admired Lisa for her ability to elevate the difficult and complex issue of poverty to be on the agenda of business leaders and public officials throughout the communities we serve.

We are excited to welcome Cecilia Dever as Executive Director. I appreciate Cecilia's persistent and thoughtful way of approaching challenges and elevating their visibility. Her focus on collaboration - both within Community Action's programs and with other agencies in the communities we serve - will help to further advance our mission. Our programs and staff are truly having an impact on individuals, families and our communities.

Warm regards,

Jennifer Wood, Board Chair

Board of Directors

Community Action is governed by a tripartite board of directors representing public, private and consumer groups in Rock and Walworth Counties.

Jennifer Wood, Wood Consulting Group
Chair

Jason Heidenreich, Rock County Board
Vice-Chair

Julie Lewis, Nowlan & Mouat
Second Vice-Chair

Amanda Sookraj, Baker Tilly
Secretary/Treasurer

Kim Capstick, Consumer—Rock County
Shannon Gallagher, Simple Market

Bob Geist, Consumer—Walworth County

Dave Godek, City of Janesville

Regina Hendrix, City of Beloit

Alan Kupsik, Walworth County Board

Minnie Murry, Consumer—Rock County

Brenda Pinson, Consumer—Rock County

Jana Vegge, Consumer—Rock County

Jeremy Zajac, Rock County Board



Cecilia Dever, Executive Director

Contract Compliance, Customer/Program Satisfaction, Human Relations, Fund Development, Marketing/Public Relations



Lynn Jones, Deputy Director

Facilities, Weatherization, Community Kids Learning Center, Grant Writing



Marc Perry, Community Programs Director

Program and Strategic Planning, PREP, AWARE, First Choice Health Center, PATHS, Skills Enhancement, Work 'n Wheels, Fatherhood Initiative, Youth Mentoring, Twin Oaks Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, TEFAP, Transitional Living, Shelter Plus Care



John Ramstad, Community Programs Director

Multifamily Senior Rental Properties, Agency Rental Housing Properties, Rock County HOME Consortium, Housing Development Projects, Merrill Housing Initiative, Community Sharing Garden, Fresh Start, WIOA



Rick Lemke, Finance Director

Agency Finances, Technology, Payroll

In 2014, Community Action employed 146 people in Rock and Walworth counties.

2014 Staff Service Awards

- Stephanie Fiese**, Teacher at Community Kids Learning Center—15 years
- Christine Schultz**, Lead Teacher at Community Kids Learning Center—15 years
- T. Kenneth Jones, Sr.**, Auditor in Weatherization Program—10 years
- Lynn Jones**, Deputy Director—10 years
- Becky Hayd**, Adult Services Program Manager—10 years
- Yvette Hereford**, TLP Program Coordinator—10 years
- John Ramstad**, Community Programs Director—10 years
- Joni Torres**, Medical Assistant at First Choice Health Center—10 years
- Wendy Truckey**, Teacher at Community Kids Learning Center—10 years
- Linda Fair**, Academic Instructor at Fresh Start—5 years
- Bill LaChance**, Building & Grounds Coordinator—5 years
- Ilena Nipple**, Auditor in Weatherization Program—5 years

Since 1965, Community Action of Rock & Walworth Counties has helped people empower themselves with solutions to a variety of poverty problems.



Our Weatherization program made emergency repairs to furnaces in 2014

194



86% Fatherhood Initiative grads earned a job using skills learned through the program



Community Action administered **613,507** pounds of food to pantries via The Emergency Food Assistance Program



Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) taught **1,355** local students to make proud choices



Skills Enhancement grads increased their wages by **\$3.30** per hour



First Choice Health Center performed **409** pap tests and **641** breast exams

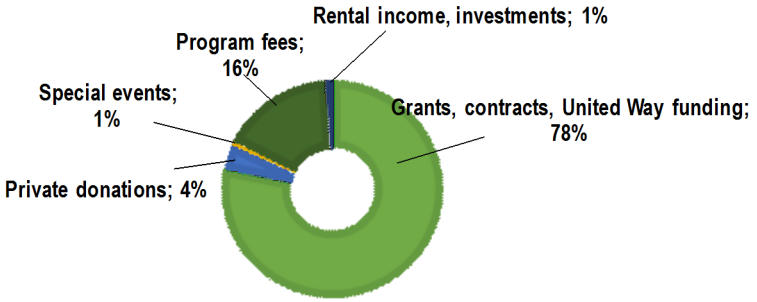
3,149 people benefited from Community Action's local programs in 2014

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| AWARE in Evansville | The Emergency Food Assistance Program |
| Beloit Fresh Start | Transitional Living Program |
| Community Kids Learning Center | Twin Oaks Shelter |
| Fatherhood Initiative | Rapid Rehousing |
| First Choice Health Center | Shelter Plus Care |
| Mentoring Program | Skills Enhancement |
| Merrill Housing Initiative | Weatherization |
| PATHS | Work N Wheels |
| PREP | Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act |

AGENCY REVENUE: \$8,207,293

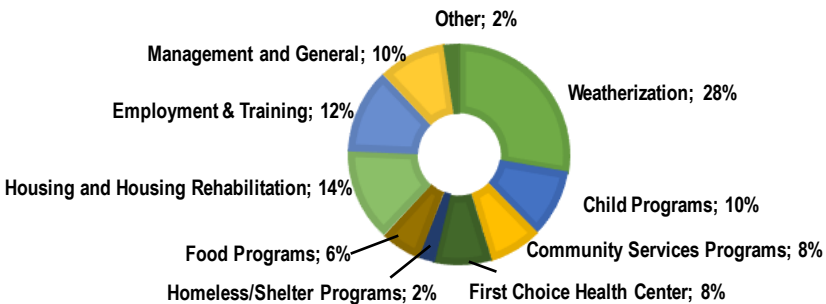
(excluding net assets)

- Grants, contracts, United Way funding
- Special events
- Rental income, investments
- Private donations
- Program fees



AGENCY EXPENSES: \$8,341,694

- Weatherization
- Community Services Programs
- Homeless/Shelter Programs
- Housing and Housing Rehabilitation
- Management and General
- Child Programs
- First Choice Health Center
- Food Programs
- Employment & Training
- Other



To read our full 2014 agency audit report, visit www.community-action.org

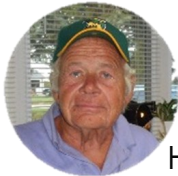




SUPPORTERS: Chuck & Sandy Kincaid

Chuck and Sandy moved to Beloit nine years ago, and found much to keep them busy and committed. Sandy joined the Library Board and co-founded the Women's Fund, focusing on addressing needs of women and girls in the Beloit area. Chuck, with his background in land planning and development, feels at home working on Beloit's City Council, the Community Development Authority and the Plan Commission. Though they already have full plates when it comes to community involvement, the two also were inspired to support the Fatherhood Initiative.

Community Action's Fatherhood Initiative program addresses many of the problems and issues of young fathers; many of the program's participants are unemployed and formerly incarcerated. "Under such circumstances, uniting and reuniting families, finding and keeping a job, are keys to a better life," say the Kincaids. It's why they decided to support this program. "We met [program manager] Erick Williams, and participants who gave personal testimony of the benefits of this program. It's heartening to meet these young men and to hear them express joy and vitality."



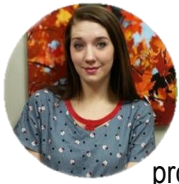
VOLUNTEERS: Bruce Clark

Bruce originally started working with Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless about a decade ago through a program that employs older workers. When that ended, he says missed being with the homeless so he volunteers every other weekend and holidays at Twin Oaks.

"The reason I did it is that it made me feel good. That's basically why you do this. The frustrating part is when you have people that don't want to do better. Walworth County basically has everything people need to succeed, but they need to motivate themselves to do it. You can't just hand them everything all the time. Some people don't want to understand that, and you can't do anything about that.

But that's canceled out so much more by people who do want to do something to make their life better. Those people make the whole experience worthwhile."

Bruce no longer drives, so he's cut back on his volunteering. But he makes a point of being at Twin Oaks on holidays to give employees a break at the 24/7 facility.



PARTICIPANTS: Savanna Brewster

Savanna enrolled in Community Action's Beloit Fresh Start program after missing three months of high school for medical reasons. Savanna wanted to graduate and earn a high school diploma. Savanna was a star pupil in Fresh Start and received training as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) while enrolled in Fresh Start.

Savanna later lost her job and was at imminent risk of homelessness due to an eviction notice from her landlord. With her previous positive experiences with Community Action, Savanna came through our door asking for a hand up. It was determined that she was eligible for our new PATHS pilot program. PATHS staff immediately secured housing for her for the next 12 months. With stable housing, career guidance and college enrollment support by PATHS, Savanna enrolled at Blackhawk Technical College and attended regularly.

Savanna wanted to take her State CNA certification exam to open doors to employment but did not have the money to pay for the exam. PATHS staff offered financial support and transportation. Savanna took the exam in December and passed with flying colors. Within one week, Savanna was hired as a full time CNA. Savanna is also planning to pursue a nursing degree once she completes her studies at Blackhawk Technical College.



Join the movement to provide pathways out of poverty!

We are a 100% local and independent organization, with entirely local leadership, focused on our communities' unique local challenges.

Visit www.community-action.org to learn about volunteer opportunities, read program updates and make secure online donations.

communityactioninc.

Thank you

for enthusiastically supporting pathways out of poverty in 2014!

Our Mission

At Community Action we provide access and opportunity for those we serve and those who support our efforts. Through innovative programs and strong community partnerships we eliminate barriers, establishing clear pathways to economic self-reliance.

Rock County Office

20 Eclipse Center, Beloit, WI 53511
(608) 313-1300 Fax: (608) 364-0513

Walworth County Office

1545 Hobbs Drive, Delavan, WI 53115
(262) 728-8296 Fax: (262) 728-8294

Read more about the impact of Community Action's programs:



www.community-action.org