

2015

Annual Report

*Schoharie County*

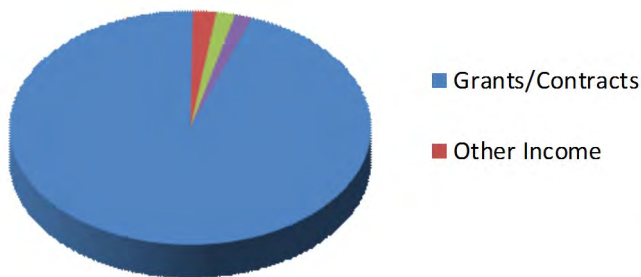
# Community *Action* Program

Schoharie County Community *Action* Program (SCCAP), a non profit organization incorporated in 1965, is part of a nationwide network of 1,000+ agencies and one of 49 in New York State established to address the causes of poverty. Programs administered under SCCAP's umbrella focus on addressing the barriers families face while seeking to overcome economic instability. SCCAP's and Community Action's original goal has not changed in 50 years. An evolving base of programs, services and wrap-around supports provide a comprehensive system of support to our community members.

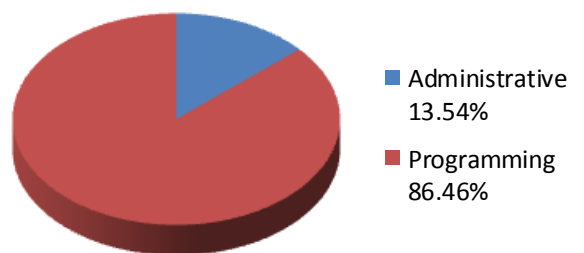
SCCAP and its community partners collaborate through advocacy, referrals and coordinated service delivery with the goal of moving families toward economic security.

Community Action believes an investment in individuals and families is an investment in community. SCCAP appreciates its many service partners, donors, staff and volunteers who have the shared commitment to empower families and build stronger communities.

**Revenues**



**Expenditures**



**Mission:** Building stronger communities and empowering families that experience economic and social challenges through strategic partnerships, education, services and compassion.

# SCCAP's 50th Anniversary!

By all accounts the celebration of SCCAP's 50th Anniversary was a huge success!

The community came together to help honor and reminisce on our journey in service to Schoharie County and its surrounding areas.

Ethel Benninger, one of SCCAP's first employees, gave a heartfelt and moving speech remembering the early years. Fifty years ago SCCAP was instrumental in bringing local access to medical care, senior services, Head Start and many other community services to this area.



*Ethel Ben-*

*ninger*



*Betsy Bernocco and Jeannette Spaulding present a Certificate*

*of Appreciation to Joanne and Steven Salerno of Justine's*

A big thank you for the many donations from local businesses and community members. Justine's contributed the cost of the food, and area offerings from businesses and individuals made for a fabulous Silent Auction.



*semblyman Lopez*



*Senator Seward*

*As-*

Senator James Seward, Assemblyman Peter Lopez and Kevin Neary were also there to share their thoughts and congratulations on our past and continuing success.

# Child Care Resource & Referral Center

Child Care Resource and Referral Center (CCRRC) provides resources and information that is helpful to parents, child care providers, employers and the community to help improve the availability of quality child care in Schoharie and Otsego Counties. The department offers referrals to families to licensed and/or registered child care providers who meet their identified needs along with counseling on how to choose the best quality child care for their family. The department also offers information and referrals to employers for their employees who may be in need of child care or other services.

Child Care Resource and Referral Center provided technical assistance and professional development trainings and workshops to child care providers to help them stay in compliance with NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) training requirements.

SCCAP is a sponsoring agency for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which reimburses child care providers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to children in a daycare setting. The department is a Legally Exempt enrollment agency, enrolling and monitoring child care providers who are paid through child care subsidies. The department also provides feedback to local and state agencies regarding community and child care needs and policy.

## **2015 Accomplishments:**

3 Babysitter Trainings held  
50 Attendees

### **Schoharie County**

61 Total referrals  
50 Child care referrals provided to families  
11 Child care online referrals to families

315 Technical Assistance hours provided to child care providers  
120.5 Intensive Technical Assistance hours provided to child care providers  
4 Number of child care providers who received a Health and Safety Grant  
2 Number of new licensed and/or registered child care providers  
29 Number of new Legally Exempt child care providers

### **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Accomplishments-Schoharie County:**

2 Number of new CACFP participants  
25 Number of CACFP monitoring visits  
\$67,381 Amount of money reimbursed to CACFP participants for serving healthy food

# Child Care Resource & Referral Center

## Otsego County

57	Total referrals
	48 Child care referrals provided to families
	9 Child care online referrals to families
249	Technical Assistance hours provided to child care providers
106	Intensive Technical Assistance hours provided to child care providers
5	Number of child care providers who received a Health and Safety Grant
10	Number of new Legally Exempt child care providers



*Deb Dyer, Heather Wayman and Amanda Fitch from the  
Child Care Resource and Referral Center  
with their Standards of Excellence award.*

“Amanda was very helpful and relieved some of my stress from doing all this paperwork.” -  
Otsego County Child Care Provider

“I think Amanda is an excellent trainer and I look forward to meeting her again.” -  
Child Abuse and Maltreatment Training - Otsego County Child Care Provider

# Community Services Department

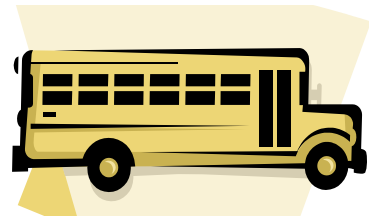
The Community Services Department provides emergency services for basic life needs including utilities, housing, clothing and food, community resources and referrals, advocacy, application assistance for SNAP, HEAP and Social Security Disability; financial literacy, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP). Special programs: back to school supplies and Coats for Kids.

## 2015 Accomplishments:

• Outside referrals	770
• SNAP applications, renewal and advocacy through NOEP	261
• Clients received continued support services	107
• HEAP applications processed and submitted to Social Services	324
• Heat assistance payments made on behalf of clients	6
• Emergency shelter stays provided to clients	3
• Electric advocacy and/or payment was made to reconnect or avoid power disconnection	39
• Clients received assistance with completion of forms for other programs	28
• Clients received transportation assistance	38
• Income tax returns prepared through the VITA program	463
• Clients received prescription assistance through payment or advocacy	7
• Clients were provided assistance using special funds, miscellaneous	9
• Clients received rent/mortgage payments and/or advocacy	46
• Telephone contacts/referrals (may be duplicated)	2244
• Clients assisted with food	11
• Children provided an emergency supply of diapers	29
• Veterans received face to face contact and assistance information from multiple agencies at the Schoharie County Veteran's Outreach event co-sponsored by SCCAP and the Schoharie County Veteran's Office.	80



496 individuals were provided with clothing which includes coats, sweaters and distribution of hats, gloves and scarves.



227 children provided with backpacks and school supplies

## Community Services Department

- Community front line workers received training on Veteran’s service connections through the Veteran’s Outreach event 30
- Community Service staff members trained in the suicide prevention program Safe Talk 2
- SCCAP staff members attended the Your Money Your Goals training — a program designed as a financial empowerment tool for “Social Service” workers. 2
- SCCAP staff members attended HEAP training 3
- Mark Owen, a SCCAP VITA volunteer, was nominated and received the CASH Coalition annual Wally Donnelly award for his tireless efforts as a volunteer
- VITA training sessions held 3



Donations of outerwear - Coats for Kids.

### Multi-department success story:

A single parent of a young child came to SCCAP to see if she might be eligible for SNAP. She was prescreened and found potentially eligible for SNAP and a number of other services. After completing her application for SNAP, she met with other SCCAP staff members to apply for WIC and HEAP. She has since been approved for all three programs and has acted on referrals to other community agencies including Head Start and Workforce Solutions. She also knows to contact the Child Care Resource Center if she needs additional child care referrals upon returning to the workforce.

### Quote from client:

An electric company referred a family to SCCAP for assistance. The family was facing an electric disconnect. The family lost their main income source after a business closure. SCCAP and the Schoharie County Combat Vets each paid half of the outstanding electric bill to maintain service. This family had never received any assistance prior. A family member came to SCCAP to express their gratitude and said “I never knew there were places that helped. It makes us feel like we’re not alone.”

# Employment Training Center

**NYS Displaced Homemaker Program (DHP):** Provides displaced adults with the guidance, training and support needed to enter the labor market. Services provided include hands on computer workshops, job development, resumes, interviewing and career exploration.

**Skills to Success Training (STS):** Career readiness services provided to public assistance recipients referred from the Department of Social Services in compliance with their welfare to work initiatives.

**Staff Computer Training:** In house computer training provided to SCCAP staff.

**Fee for Service Computer Training:** Billable computer classes for the community.

## **2015 Accomplishments:**

### **Programming:**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| • Participants enrolled  | 176 |
| • Training workshops held                                      | 146 |
| Number of people who attended                                  | 537 |
| • People who secured employment                                | 90  |
| • People who received<br>National Work Readiness Certification | 12  |

### **Staff Computer Training**

- |                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| • Training sessions held | 5  |
| Staff participants       | 19 |

**Success Story:** A shy participant came in because she had seen the ad for classes. She had recently been part of a cut back at work and knew that she would have to improve her skills if she wanted to get a new job. She attended PowerPoint, Excel, Word and Quick-Books classes; doing well in all of them. DHP helped her create a resume and cover letter for an office manager position that she had found locally. She called soon after to say that not only did she get the job, but the company said her resume and cover letter were by far the best that they received. She is on cloud nine and even offered to come and speak to future classes if we needed her - this from the shy woman who, at first, would hardly say anything.

“I would not have had the courage or the skills to apply for the job without your classes” -  
DHP Participant

# Energy Services Department

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is committed to reducing energy costs for low-income families by improving the energy efficiency of their homes and ensuring their health and safety.

## 2015 Accomplishments:

- Homes received weatherization services 39
- Gallons of fuel approximately saved 9,553
- Energy costs approximate savings \$38,117

### Purchased and installed:

- Refrigerators 9
- Heating systems 5
- Carbon monoxide detectors 48
- Fluorescent bulbs 817
- Air conditioners 8



146  
smoke detectors  
installed

Success Story: One particular home had no windows, no functioning heating system and an inoperable hot water heater.

The weatherization crew installed a brand new high efficiency heating system with new duct work and oil tank, 17 thermal windows and a brand new hot water heater. The attic was insulated as well.



“The work was performed in a neat and tidy manner. Norm and Everett are very knowledgeable in their work and made me feel at ease. My house is a lot warmer now thanks to your program and the wonderful work you all do.” - Energy Services client



## Family Support and Resource Center

The Family Support/Resource Center is a strength-based, family and child focused set of programs with the goal of wrapping community supports around children and their families to help maintain family stability and to keep children safely in their homes and community. We offer Family Partners that work 1:1 with families (provide support, advocacy, education and liaison with providers), Supervised Visitation, different types of Skill Building (individual and families), Mentoring (both 1:1 and groups), Time Banking (where youth work to earn Time Dollars-not real money- and use their hours toward camps, special activities, school clothes or the Holiday Store) and Family Team Conferences (teams of providers and the family meet to develop goals and work towards strengthening the family system).

### 2015 Accomplishments:



**“We are grateful that the FSRC has brought us together! Everyone is supportive of the mentors and mentees - this is a fantastic program.”**

Success Story: In the spring of 2015 a woman was released from a long-term drug rehab facility. Her two children were in the custody of her parents. A Family Partner was able to work closely with her to find resources, help with bus tokens, make referrals to other resources and provide parenting education.

Family Team Conferences continued and the children were enrolled in Time Banking. Support and resources were made available as she found stable housing and full time employment. Visitation moved to unsupervised in the community and at the close of the year there was hope for eventual reunification of this mother and her two children.

## Healthy Families Center/WIC

The Healthy Families Center administers the Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) program which is a federal supplemental food program that provides low income families with healthy foods and nutrition and breastfeeding education. The WIC program serves approximately 600 participants. Our staff consists of two nutritionists, two certified lactation consultants, one nutrition assistant and one part time outreach coordinator. The department networks with other community partners to offer a plethora of services from breastfeeding and nutrition education, high risk counseling, child birthing classes, and lead screenings.

### 2015 Accomplishments:

- Number of participants were served on average each month receiving food packages ranging from \$75 to \$150 per person 504
- Breastfeeding classes held 9
  - Number of women who attended 36
- Hospital grade electric breast pumps loaned out 21
- Percentage of moms who initiated breastfeeding 71%
- Farmer's Market Coupons issued 2430
  - Monetary value \$9,720
- Number of families who participated in our grow a garden program. 220
  - Kelly's Lawn and Garden donated seeds for this program
- Number of families who participated in our WIC play group 28
  - Held weekly at Nick Iorio Park
- Number of lead screenings performed on children by The Health Department at the WIC Clinic 31
- Number of participants who received free bike helmets along with bike safety information 112

The nursing hut was set up at the Cobleskill Sunshine Fair, giving breastfeeding moms a comfortable, clean, private space to nurse their baby

Worldwide Breastfeeding week was celebrated by hosting our first Annual Community Baby Shower. Over 30 pregnant women attended the shower

Schoharie County WIC was the recipient of the Loving Support Award for Excellence on our breastfeeding services

## Healthy Families Center/WIC

**Multi-department Success Story:** We had a new mom come in for her first appointment with her 5 day old baby girl. This mother really wanted to breastfeed and was well aware of all of the benefits of breastfeeding for both her and her baby. She lived with her grandmother who was not a supporter of her nursing and she really had no other support. She was very shy and did not think she would be able to nurse around other people. She met with our breastfeeding peer counselor Heather who had her 8 week old baby girl with her. Heather naturally nursed her baby throughout the appointment as she was talking to this mom. In the middle of the conversation the mom commented on how easy it looked to nurse the baby discreetly. Mom was assisted with baby wearing, nursing positions and using a cover up while nursing. By the end of the appointment the woman was nursing the baby in peer counselor's office. State representatives were observing the clinic that day, and the mom even nursed in front of them. The mom was given all the tools and support she needed to comfortably and discreetly nurse her baby. The baby is now 10 months old and has never had any formula. The state representative still tells this story in meetings of how important it was for the mom to see an example of a mom nursing and how it gave her the confidence she needed. This mom still contacts Heather because she is so grateful and proud that she was able to exclusively nurse her baby.



*Showing their Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Loving Support Gold Standard is Jackie LaLonde, Heather Fretto, and Norah Fretto is in mom's arms*

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# Community Activities 2015

## Week of the Young Child Pictures - Otsego County Art Show



## Coats for Kids



## FSRC Time Banking Holiday Store



# **Board & Staff**

## **Board of Directors as of December 31, 2015**

### **PRIVATE SECTOR**

Barbara Parsons, Treasurer

Larry Phillips

Jason Evans

### **PUBLIC SECTOR**

Anna VanDerwerken

Earl Van Wormer III

George McDonnell

### **CONSUMER SECTOR**

Betsy Bernocco, Chair

Dolores Jackson, Vice Chair

Pastor Jonathan Litzner,  
Secretary

## **Staff as of December 31, 2015**

Linda Angell

Denelle Baker

Nancy Becker

Chris Bent

Elene Berard-Johnstone

Cheyly Bevins

Nardeana Bohringer

Deb Dyer

Amanda Fitch

Heather Fretto

Kim Godin

Jodi Gregory

Robert Haynes

Krista Hesdorfer

Marcy Holmes

Carl Jackson

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Katie Palmer

Kelly Pitt

Amber Shultes

Adam Smith

Jeannette Spaulding

Sarah Van Deusen

Heather Wayman

Rhonda Wilty

Colleen Wojcik

*Schoharie County*

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**Community *Action* Program, Inc.**

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