

*"The potential for
greatness lives
within each of us."*

- Wilma Rudolph



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Partnering with People to Overcome Poverty
SERVE. EDUCATE. TRANSFORM.



Community **Action**

A WORD FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends:

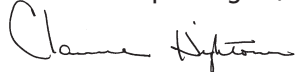
The theme for this year's annual report, "The Potential for Greatness Lives Within Each of Us" based on a quote from the late Wilma Rudolph, Olympian, educator, and human rights activist, is a concept that is foundational to our work at Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties. This report highlights a number of success stories that embody both this theme and our ongoing efforts to partner with people through service, education, and transformation.

You will also find statistics that underscore our performance outcomes over the previous twelve months. However, our accomplishments are not only revealed through numbers. Each year, Community Action seeks to significantly enhance our programs and services through new and innovative partnerships, piloted programs, and other improvement-focused initiatives. For example, in 2018, we:

- Launched a Vehicle Repair pilot project for participants of the Car Ownership Program, which reduces the burden of maintaining a safe vehicle and increases the likelihood of repayment.
- Implemented across the Head Start program the Pyramid Model Framework, an evidence-based approach to teaching that focuses on promoting the social, emotional, and behavioral development of young children.
- Partnered with the City of Saint Paul and local housing providers to conduct landlord workshops aimed at reducing evictions. For landlords, these sessions provided information on financial and legal resources to help their low-income tenants maintain stable housing as well as mitigate their own losses.

Here at Community Action, our success is based in large part on working directly with program participants, volunteers, partner agencies, and other community stakeholders in order to help maximize that potential that Ms. Rudolph so eloquently spoke of. It is also due to the support, generosity, and compassion of friends and neighbors such as you. And for that, we are eternally thankful.

With our deepest regard,



Clarence Hightower, Ph.D.

Executive Director



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

Year Ended September 30, 2018

Assets		
Cash	\$581,502	8%
Receivables	\$2,359,245	31%
Inventory and Other	\$26,619	0%
Prepaid Expenses, Advances	\$300,169	4%
Property & Equipment, Net	\$4,423,548	57%
Total Assets	\$7,691,083	100%

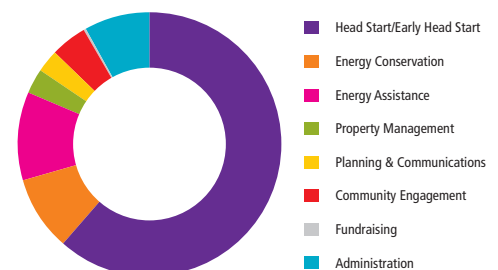
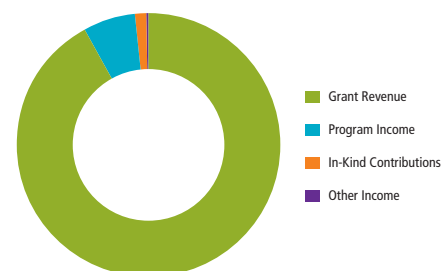
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	\$823,916	11%
Accrued Expenses	\$1,670,750	22%
Deferred Revenue & Other	\$131,788	2%
Long-Term Debt	\$88,901	1%
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,701,527	35%
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$2,274,201	29%
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$7,691,083	100%

Consolidated Statement of Activities

Year Ended September 30, 2018

Revenue		
Grant Revenue	\$22,153,784	92%
Program Income	\$1,521,341	6%
In-Kind Contributions	\$270,959	1%
Other Income	\$41,326	0%
Total Revenue	\$23,987,410	100%

Expenses		
Head Start/Early Head Start	\$14,208,134	59%
Energy Conservation	\$2,651,249	11%
Energy Assistance	\$2,437,218	10%
Property Management	\$677,975	3%
Planning & Communications	\$583,923	2%
Community Engagement	\$1,550,482	6%
Fundraising	\$36,386	0%
Administration	\$2,061,358	9%
Total Expenses	\$24,206,725	100%
Change in Net Assets	\$219,315	



SERVE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – ADDRESSING THE GAP

For decades it has been well documented in the news media and economic studies, including Community Action's own Community Needs Assessments for Ramsey and Washington Counties, that low-income people have consistently cited affordable housing as one of their most pressing problems. In response, Community Action has added affordable housing development to its existing program offerings to address the various housing needs of those living in poverty.



Since a lack of affordable housing options has both a devastating impact on individual families and can also drastically limit the demographics and economic development of entire communities, the goal of Community Action's work in this area is to grow the number of affordable rental units through the acquisition and rehabilitation of aging properties across our service area. These properties are then offered at below-market rates to very low-income people. Rather than focus on larger multi-unit developments, like many other affordable housing developers working in our region, we are employing a scattered site model aimed at upgrading existing housing stock benefiting the larger community by keeping neighborhoods intact and offering families housing options that are already close to schools, grocery stores, parks, jobs, and public transportation.

Over the past two years the agency has developed and preserved three properties in Forest Lake, Little Canada, and North St. Paul. All properties have been fully weatherized by our experienced Energy Conservation staff to ensure they are efficient, cost effective, and healthy for families. In addition, Community Action offers other critical services to its low-income tenants as they work toward financial stability including Energy Assistance to help defray costs of utilities, employment supports and career development, low-interest car loans, financial education, asset development, and the like.

"I am getting better service for the same price as my old place. I did not even know stuff like this existed... It was like someone saved me."

One of Community Action's first tenants, Koung, a single mother of three, notes that "In the past I only had experience with uncaring landlords." Commenting on her experience with Community Action, which has included access to other vital services, Koung affirms that "I am getting better service for the same price as my old place. I did not even know stuff like this existed... It was like someone saved me."

To date, Community Action has leveraged approximately \$960,000 in grant monies to support this growing initiative learning much along the way. The Agency is committed to growing our impact in this area by seeking additional funding sources including donations from the public. We look forward to thriving partnerships that will not only help more families like Koung's but will also strengthen the social and economic vitality of our communities.

SPOTLIGHT: LeTessa

Not so long ago the prospect of a better life seemed bleak for LeTessa. "I felt like a lost soul," she recalls, "I had no guidance, no stability." As she sought to escape an abusive relationship LeTessa wound up homeless before spending several months in a battered woman's shelter. It was during her time here that LeTessa was referred to Community Action's Rapid Rehousing Program. LeTessa was thrilled to learn that she qualified and immediately enrolled in the program.

While working as a Personal Care Assistant and juggling classes to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), things started to look up. Unfortunately, when another rocky relationship caused problems at her apartment, the landlord asked her to leave. LeTessa relied on friends, moving house to house as she looked for another place of her own.

LeTessa credits Shanelle Hall, Community Action's Housing Coordinator, for sticking with her through this difficult time. "Shanelle never gave up on me even when I gave up on myself," says LeTessa. "She helped me find another place to live when I wasn't sure that was even possible. Community Action showed

me there was help. And hope." Now working full-time as a CNA, LeTessa still hopes to become a social worker one day. Considering all she's been through in her life, she declares "I'm not where I want to be yet... but I am happy to be where I'm at."



EDUCATE

HEAD START KIDS ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL



Since the inception of Head Start in 1965, study after study has demonstrated that it is a poverty-fighting program that works. Recently, one such study, a 2018 report from the University of Michigan's Department of Economics (*Prep School for Poor Kids: The Long-Run Impacts of Head Start on Human Capital and Economic Self-Sufficiency*) asserts that not only do Head Start programs yield positive social, educational, and economic benefits for participants, but also offer to the larger community an exceptionally strong return on public investment.

"Head Start's high quality early childhood education and comprehensive services prepare young children for school and lifetime success."

Compared to children from similar low-income backgrounds, Head Start children are significantly more likely to graduate from high-school, college, and become self-sufficient adults. Commenting on the study, public policy expert Michelle Haimowitz states, "Head Start's high quality early childhood education and comprehensive services prepare young children for school and lifetime success." Here at Community Action these are all things we already knew. And, we have examples to prove it.

The journey of Jeanne Dickhausen and her daughter illustrates how both child and parent have benefitted from Community Action's Head Start program. When Jeanne registered her daughter for Head Start more than two decades ago, she signed on as a parent volunteer. When her daughter, who is now a college graduate and employed in her chosen field, moved on to kindergarten, Jeanne stayed at Community Action, working her way from Teacher's Aide to Lead Teacher and ultimately to Education Coordinator. Along the way she earned her Child Development Associate degree and her A.A. degree, and both B.A. and M.A. degrees from Concordia University in Early Childhood Education. Today, Jeanne is the Head Start Collaboration Director with the Minnesota Department of Education where she provides oversight to all of the state's Head Start programs.

Then there is the story of Alexander Hines, one of Community Action's newest board members. After graduating from Head Start, Alex was so advanced academically that his first grade teacher recommended that he immediately move to the second grade. Likewise, his second and third grade teachers recommended he skip a grade. And while his adoptive parents insisted he remain with his age group, it was

clear his experience in Head Start was indelible. A veteran of the United States Air Force, Alex earned his M.Ed. from Clemson University and holds a B.S. from the University of Maryland. As the current Director of Equity and Access for the University of Minnesota's Martin Luther King Jr. and President's Emerging Scholars programs, Alex has nearly 30 years of experience providing educational support to students of color, first generation college students, and non-traditional students.

These stories, and those like them, demonstrate that future classes of Head Start graduates will undoubtedly include educators, scientists, nurses, doctors, lawyers, civil servants, and social workers among its ranks. They are the leaders who will influence and shape our communities and thanks to Head Start our communities will thrive.

SPOTLIGHT: De'Quaia

As soon as De'Quaia's mother LeAndra placed her in Community Action's Head Start program, she knew it was the right decision. "It was through Head Start," remembers LeAndra, "that De'Quaia developed her love of reading." Yet even beyond the educational foundation Head Start provided her, were life and social skills, a love of learning, and an appreciation for the benefits of keeping your body and mind healthy. LeAndra adds, "One of the things she really took seriously was learning how to properly brush her teeth!"

As an advanced reader in elementary school, De'Quaia took to heart the lesson of helping others and consistently aided classmates that were struggling. And while De'Quaia, now a senior at St. Paul's Johnson High School has always succeeded academically, her extracurricular life is equally as impressive. In addition to track,



gymnastics, volleyball, and drill team, she helped establish "Girls Group" at Johnson. A student organization designed to support and mentor African American girls, the program model has been recently adopted by the East Side YMCA.

Earlier this year, De'Quaia was one of only 26 Johnson students selected to take part in an educational tour of Europe where she visited such cities as Paris, London, and Canterbury. As she prepares to graduate from high school this June, De'Quaia, who has already interned with a pair of local companies, is deciding on where to attend college next fall. Her list of schools includes some of the very best historically black colleges and universities, as well as local institutions. Wherever her studies take her, De'Quaia intends to study Dentistry, perhaps a nod to her Head Start days when she learned how to brush her teeth.

TRANSFORM

COMMUNITY ACTION AT THE CAPITOL

One of the most essential concepts set forth in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964—which launched the Community Action movement as part of the Johnson Administration’s War on Poverty—is the belief that low-income people should have a say in the design and implementation of the programs and services offered by Community Action agencies across the nation.

“And, it made it easier for me to find work and a place for us to call home.”

There are a number of ways in which our agency utilizes this time-tested principle to both amplify and advance the voices of our neighbors living in poverty. Examples of this include membership on our tri-partite board of directors, providing testimonies and insight during our triennial Community Needs Assessment, and participating in agency-sponsored civic and community engagement activities. These methods are critical in our mission to reduce poverty and its impacts.

To make our communities even stronger and more resilient for future generations, we have come to understand that it is imperative that communities work together to dismantle systematic barriers and troublesome policies that both force people into, and keep them in, poverty. One of the many ways Community Action works to eliminate barriers is to encourage staff members and program participants to testify before the State of Minnesota’s House and Senate. Recently, one participant, Felicia, a Head Start parent testified regarding the value of early childhood education and childcare assistance programs. Were it not for these supports, Felicia, who found herself homeless, shudders at what might have happened to her and her three-year-old son. “The fact that I was able to get my son into Head Start gave him structure,” says Felicia, “And, it made it easier for me to find work and a place for us to call home.”

The efforts of Community Action and its participants to support legislation, influence policy-making decisions at every level of government, and advocate for and affect systematic change will continue to be at the forefront of our work. It’s not enough to change the lives of individuals and families; equitable access to resources and opportunities must be available to all members of the community.



SPOTLIGHT: Jacqueline

For low-income individuals and families, reliable transportation can make all the difference in the world. Perhaps no one knows that better than Jacqueline, who recently provided testimony at the State Capitol in support of the Minnesota Senate’s Getting to Work bill.



Last year, when her car unexpectedly died Jacqueline found herself without a way to get to work, forcing her to take time off which impacted the size of her much-needed pay check. Not sure where to turn, she found hope in Community

Action’s Car Ownership Program. After completing courses in financial literacy and car care, Jacqueline purchased a vehicle and “everything seemed good.” That is until the wheel bearing went out. The verdict from the auto shop was the car was not safe to drive and the estimated cost to repair the vehicle was \$500.

Fortunately, Community Action was piloting a vehicle repair program and since she had already successfully made three loan payments toward her car, Jacqueline worked with Elba Castillo, the program

“Everything went so smoothly and my car was ready in one day,” says Jacqueline, “I can’t thank Community Action enough. Help was there when I needed it most. Not once, but twice.”

coordinator to apply for a repair loan. “Everything went so smoothly and my car was ready in one day,” says Jacqueline, “I can’t thank Community Action enough. Help was there when I needed it most. Not once, but twice.” Jacqueline reports that while she was nervous to speak in front of lawmakers she was proud to testify to the value of Car Ownership and the Vehicle Repair programs because they “truly improve the lives of so many people like me.”

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION—TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sanaide “Sara” Appolon, Community Member
St. Paul

Esmeralda Cortes, Community Member
St. Paul

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University of Minnesota

Blake Huffman, Commissioner
Ramsey County

Marcie Jefferys, Planning Manager, Health & Wellness
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Michelle Kemper, Deputy Director
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Ta’Lisa Lissimore, Accounts Payable Specialist
Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op

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Heather Meyers, Attorney
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Elizabeth Omoyeni, Community Member
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Shereen M. Page, Community Member
White Bear Lake

Jane Prince, Council Member, Ward 7
City of St. Paul

Keith Schuler, Executive Vice President, Finance
McGough

Connie Greer, Former Director (RETIRED)
State of MN, Office of Economic Opportunity

In successfully meeting our service benchmarks during the past year, Community Action served a total of 60,934 people. For example, in 2018 Community Action:



Provided Energy Assistance services to **55,886 low-income people**.

Improved the conditions in which low-income residents live by weatherizing a total of **103 homes**.

Helped **13 households** purchase a home and **131 low-income citizens** increase their savings through participation in income and asset building programs.



Prevented eviction or homelessness for **268 individuals** with emergency rent or mortgage assistance.

Helped **4,579 senior citizens** and **9,508 individuals** with disabilities maintain their independent living situation.

Provided emergency home repair services to **412 households**.



Provided **1,778 low-income children** ages 0-5 with comprehensive early childhood education and appropriate health and nutritional services.

Ensured that **1,719 individuals** received child and maternal health screenings and **1,508 children** received dental screenings.

Facilitated the purchase of a vehicle by **34 families** and assisted **21 families** with securing critical car repair and maintenance.



Improved the leadership skills, knowledge and abilities of **20 people** through civic engagement education.

Community Action provided voter education and registration services to **1,320 individuals**.

Benefited from **31,317 hours** of volunteer service resulting in a calculated value to the agency of **\$343,174**.

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties

450 Syndicate Street North, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

651-645-6445 • www.capr.org



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