



**Annual Report**

**2016**

Community Action of Greene County will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017! Since May of 1967, this agency has provided individuals and families with the opportunities and assistance necessary in order for them to provide for their families, to live, work, and be part of their community. The board, management and staff of CAGC continue to work towards eradicating poverty, educating the public on the issues surrounding poverty, and giving people the opportunity to do on their own, helping them to make ends meet, and perhaps most importantly, giving them a voice and hope.

Our volunteer, tripartite board of directors, with equal representation from the private, consumer and publicly appointed sectors of the community, continue to represent a diverse cross section of our population and bring a wealth of information and insight to the governance and direction of this agency. They meet regularly throughout the year, evaluating program and providing overall guidance for the Executive Director.

This annual report will provide the reader with insight on accomplishments, and struggles, experienced by the agency and its consumers in 2016, as well as provide a glimpse into the future; informing the reader of what goals the Agency is striving for in 2017. It will also demonstrate that despite the economic growth our beautiful community is experiencing in the areas of the arts, tourism and hospitality, many among us need help obtaining even the most basic of needs.

Since I began preparing this report, the proposed federal budget was released. Alarmingly, the Weatherization Assistance Program funding was eliminated, along with the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). CSBG is what makes us Community Action. CSBG is the funding that makes it possible for us to be the umbrella agency for a host of programs and services that are not funded adequately enough to stand on their own. Without CSBG, we would not be able to administer any of the programs detailed in this report- none of them are self sufficient. Should VAWA and or FFVPSA also be eliminated, which has been speculated, our DV services would also be eliminated. Our hope is that our work is recognized for its importance and the great affect it has on assisting members of our community that live at or below the poverty level. Our hope is that each person reading this report sees the value and supports our important and necessary work.

Housing and homelessness continues to be a major issue in our rural community. Our STEHP (Solutions to End Homelessness Program) program, funded through NYSOTDA with HUD funding, which helps homeless families and individuals move into permanent housing, and those on the brink of eviction to remain in permanent housing, has once again exhausted its resources within the first three months of the grant, demonstrating the housing needs our community which reach beyond what we can address with current funding levels. We maintain our active role in the Columbia Greene Housing Coalition, the local HUD Continuum of Care, working to eliminate homelessness in Greene and Columbia Counties. We administer two Permanent Supportive Housing Grants through HUD, one for chronically homeless individuals, one for families affected by domestic violence.

Food insecurity remains an issue for many folks living in Greene County, including those working full time jobs, or the equivalent. On average, we served 171 households a month in 2016, a 24% increase from last year. Providing each household a three-day supply of food, in 2016, we distributed 41,571 meals. Again, we are only one of several pantries in our community. Through Feeding America, we continue to be able to benefit from food pickups three times per week from the Catskill Wal-Mart Store. This food is near expiration, or is being discontinued at the store level, and is available for free for those in need. This program often allows for nutritious "luxury" food items, which we normally would not be able to provide, such as yogurts, fresh produce, meat and fish. This food is available in addition to our regular food pantry service, which is funded through a grant from the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY, the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Grant, and donations from our community members. This year we entered into a new partnership with Family of Woodstock in neighboring Ulster County, who received a volunteer generation grant. They will work with us to recruit and train volunteers in order to increase access to healthy, nutritious foods and produce to our pantries. Through this grant, we will reach out to local farmers to collaborate with the goal of being able to glean excess produce from local farms.

ARC of Ulster Greene remains a valuable community partner in our food delivery as well, picking up and delivering the Feeding American food to us as a community volunteer project for their consumers.

Our thrift store continues to be successful on many levels. Knowing that their contributions assist people right here in Greene County, we have developed quite the donor list; we are thrilled with the number of folks who bring us their gently loved clothing, house wares and furniture that we in turn sell to those seeking a bargain. In 2016, the value of donated items to the store was \$125,299! Rather than send people in need over the river to Salvation Army, we have developed our own voucher system to provide to families in need; in 2016 we issued 228 vouchers for clothing and housewares, valued at \$ 8,185. With more people than ever concerned with the environment, the evils of fast fashion and waste and excess in our society, we are attracting several different demographics of shoppers, including antiquers, millennials, hipsters and weekenders. We are confident that space with more foot traffic would result in even higher sales, and will explore any opportunity that presents in order to achieve that. With our limited access and space, our gross sales for 2016 were an amazing \$64, 126.00. Perhaps the greatest contribution of the store, besides of course the money generated toward program and sales tax revenue, is the opportunity we provide for those with little or no work history. We continue to serve as a CWEP (Community Work Experience Program) site for Greene County Department of Social Services, and as a site for the Columbia Greene Workforce NY youth intern and summer youth programs. In 2016, we have provided job skill training and mentoring to three CWEP recipients, four (4) Summer Youth Interns, and three (3) Workforce NY Interns. Moving forward, we are looking to expand our job readiness offerings, and have spent a considerable amount of time in 2016 researching the possibilities. We are looking forward to announcing a major addition to our programming in the coming months.

Our Domestic Violence Program, a vital service to the community, continues to thrive and grow. Staff work tirelessly to educate the public on the issues surrounding domestic violence, advocating for stricter penalties and accountability for offenders, and teaching our communities' youth about healthy relationships. Our Outreach Specialist has conducted healthy relationship groups for students in schools in both Greene and Columbia Counties, and hopes to work with more. In partnership with the Legal Aid Society of NENY, our Domestic Violence Task Force is up and running with a host of agencies, schools, law enforcement agencies and courts attending meetings, working together towards eradicating violence in our communities. Focus has been this year on adopting and implementing a Danger, Lethality and Risk Assessment Tool to be used by service providers and first responders in order to connect high-risk victims with services. Our Crime Victim Advocate/Community Educator has been hitting the pavement on both sides of the Hudson River, providing information to courts, service providers and municipalities, etc. so that innocent crime victims receive the advocacy, information and support they are entitled to. Posters, brochures and palm cards have been distributed across the two counties, and working in partnership with agencies such as the REACH Center and the Child Advocacy Center, special projects and events such as the National Night Out and the Clothesline Project educate the public on these topics. Domestic Violence, in any form, is unacceptable, offenders should be held accountable, and victims need to know that support is available.

Our Weatherization Program continues to work towards meeting production goals and providing low-income homeowners and renters energy saving measures to help them save on utility bills. New last contract was an extra layer of oversight: each building must have an independent QCI (Quality Control Inspection) sign off that the measures taken meet industry standards. We are pleased to announce that our auditor has just successfully completed his QCI and is now certified. This will mean a savings of over \$500 on each unit we complete. We are so happy to have a knowledgeable, hardworking crew and director, and are eager to move forward to growing our housing department to include more fee for service measures for those who do not qualify for the free Weatherization services.

As you may recall, in 2015 we entered into partnership with the Prattsville Art Center and Residency, and have staff stationed at the center each Friday. Public service announcements on WRIP radio were aired to increase awareness of our presence, and we look forward to being able to expand our service provision in such underserved areas of our county. We have been able to arrange for free income tax assistance at the center, a healthcare navigator once each month, as well as having representatives from both Greene County Department of Human Services and the Center for Disability Services on hand to provide information and answer questions. We hosted a Disaster Preparedness Training at the center for mountaintop residents in November. Our support of the Center has also enabled them to increase their programming for our area's youth, providing a vehicle for kids to express themselves through music and art, and providing a safe place to congregate.

In 2016, with funding from The Bank of Greene County and The Wayne Speenburgh Memorial Fund, we co-hosted our first Thanksgiving dinner in partnership with the Catskill Elks Lodge. The dinner was open to anyone in Greene County who either lived alone or did not have the means to provide their own dinners, regardless of age. We hope to grow this program in years to come, as the response from the community, particularly those wishing to volunteer, was tremendous.

This past year we gladly welcomed Greene County Transit, and have been promoting this wonderful new service to all of our consumers and partners. We also recognized the opportunity for this agency to use the bus system for outreach to the public, and purchased advertising promoting our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on one of the routes.

Our agency is committed to providing quality services as well as continuing staff development. Karen Van Valkenburgh, our Operations Officer, is currently preparing for her CCAP exam, and Rebecca Alamillo, our Shelter Coordinator, is enrolled in part II of the Emergency Leaders Institute offered by the New York State Community Action Association. Kristin Beattie, our Columbia County Non Residential Coordinator is enrolled in the Leadership Columbia Greene Program offered by the two chambers of commerce. Our entire staff was trained in Mental Health First Aid this past year, our Weatherization staff have been certified by BPI (Building Performance Institute), and as mentioned earlier, our auditor is now QCI (Quality Control Inspection) certified.

In closing, I must point out how important the people are that work for this agency and how proud I am to work with them. Working in our domestic violence shelters with families who have experienced unspeakable violence; working with individuals and families who come to us for assistance when they are in crisis, going into the homes of some of our most vulnerable residents to perform home repairs- our staff do not have an easy job. In addition, the grants that support their salaries do not allow them to be paid nearly enough. We are often a stepping-stone between school and a county or state position for our employees. Despite that, our staff are here. They are here because they want to make a difference, they believe in the important work we do, they believe that people can change and want to improve their lives.

I look forward to celebrating 50 years of Community Action in Greene County with our staff, community partners, and those we serve. At the same time, I am concerned that many of the programs and services assisting our most vulnerable populations are at risk. We look forward to the Legislature's continued support of our work, and on behalf of the staff and our Board of Directors, thank you.

Sincerely,

Florence Ohle  
Executive Director

Community Action of Greene County Inc.

Senior Staff

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Executive Director                                 | Florence Ohle        |
| Operations Officer                                 | Karen VanValkenburgh |
| Director, Family, Community<br>And Victim Services | Barbara Palmateer    |
| Director, Weatherization Assistance<br>Program     | Jamie Linzey         |

Board of Directors

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| President      | Robert Schrock<br>(Representing Greene County Legislator<br>William Lawrence) |
| Vice President | Reverend John Bowen   |
| Treasurer      | Carrie Multari  |
| Secretary      | Carol Pfister<br>(representing Athens Mayor Christian Pfister)                |
|                | William Reich   |
|                | Charlene Holdridge  |
|                | Charlie Shayne  |
|                | Tracy Magee<br>(Representing NYS Assemblyman Pete Lopez)                      |
|                | Nancy Barton  |
|                | Tracy Jo Szepessy   |
|                | Aidan O'Connor  |
|                | Maryann Scalera   |

### At A Glance

| Service                                  | Number Served - 2016  | Prior Year - 2015   |
|--|---|---|
| Food Pantry                              | 4,628 persons, 409 unduplicated households, 2,053 food packages, 41,571 meals   | 3,650 persons, 373 unduplicated households, 1641 food packages, 32,850 meals                                      |
| Feeding America                          | 154 food pickups, 97,600 lbs. of food   | 150 food pickups, 104,677 lbs. of food  |
| Store Vouchers                           | 234 clothing, 83 household items, 5 furniture   | 213 clothing, 85 household items, 9 furniture   |
| Emergency Assistance                     | 14 rent/security, 1 utilities, 1 auto repair, 2 other   | 8 rent/security, 14 utilities, 1 auto repair, 1 other   |
| Healthy Homes Case Management            | 20 households   | 5 households  |
| STEHP (Solutions to End Homelessness)    | 12 homeless served with security or rent<br>34 at risk served with security or rent<br>1 assisted with utilities<br>3 homeless served with hotel stay | 16 homeless served with security or rent<br>37 at risk served with security or rent<br>1 assisted with utilities  |
| Resource Room (computer, phone, fax use) | 30 unduplicated people, 109 visits  | 39 unduplicated people, 108 visits  |
| Wheels for Work Auto Loans               | 9 loans approved  | 6 loans approved  |
| Domestic violence Hotline Calls          | 1426  | 1433  |
| Shelter – Greene County                  | 67 individuals  | 116 individuals   |
| Shelter – Columbia County                | 119 individuals   | 99 individuals  |
| Greene – Orders of Protection            | 66  | 71  |
| Columbia – Orders of Protection          | 65  | 53  |
| VITA                                     | 189 tax returns, \$242, 111 in refunds  | 182 tax returns, \$221,015 in refunds   |
| Weatherization                           | 35 households   | 38 households, 72 persons   |
| Thrift Store                             | 3 CWEP volunteers, 707 hours<br>17 community volunteers, 1221.75 hours<br>5 youth Interns<br>419 donations, \$64,125.77                               | 22 CWEP volunteer, 1636 hours<br>4 community volunteers, 251 hours<br>7 youth Interns<br>595 donations, \$169,808 |
| Here Comes Christmas                     | 414 children served   | 745 children served   |
| Back to School                           | 206 children served   | 282 children served   |



Jamie Linzey, Weatherization Director, shares information at the 2016 Greene County Senior Day "Hoe Down" at the Historic Catskill Point

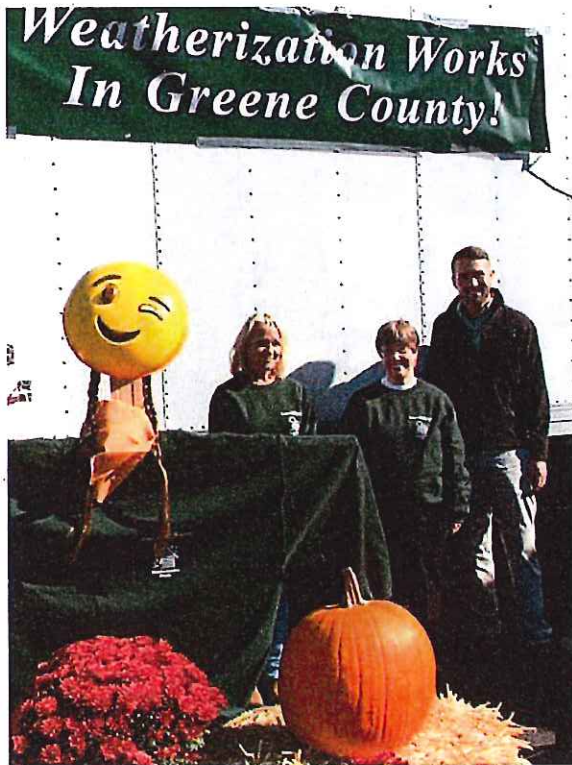


Emmett Ferris, NYS Department of State Program Analyst, along with Community Action staff, accepts donation of Christmas Toys from the Catskill Teacher's Association.





Resource Specialist Diane McAneny, Director of Family, Community and Victim Services Barbara Palmateer, and Operations Officer Karen VanValkenburgh man outreach table at the Greene County Youth Fair.



Weatherization Director Jamie Linzey, Program Assistant Carol Burnett, and Board member and County Legislator Aidan O'Connor celebrate Weatherization Day in Greene County!




Staff of Community Action enjoy holiday luncheon at the New York Restaurant.



Taking A Stand against Domestic Violence at Columbia Greene Community College in October, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As an active member of the Columbia Greene Housing Coalition, educating the public on homelessness is an important part of our work.



**Columbia-Greene  
Continuum of Care**

**Homelessness  
Awareness  
Panel  
Discussion**

**February 24, 2016  
6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Club Helsinki (upstairs)  
405 Columbia Street, Hudson, NY**

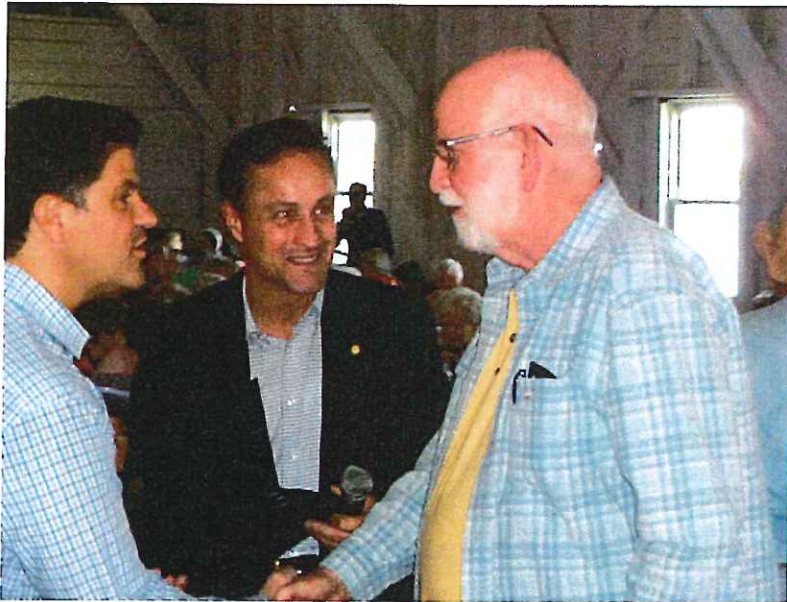
Join community and institutional leaders from around Columbia and Greene Counties for a community discussion of homelessness in our area.

*Panelists include representatives from:*

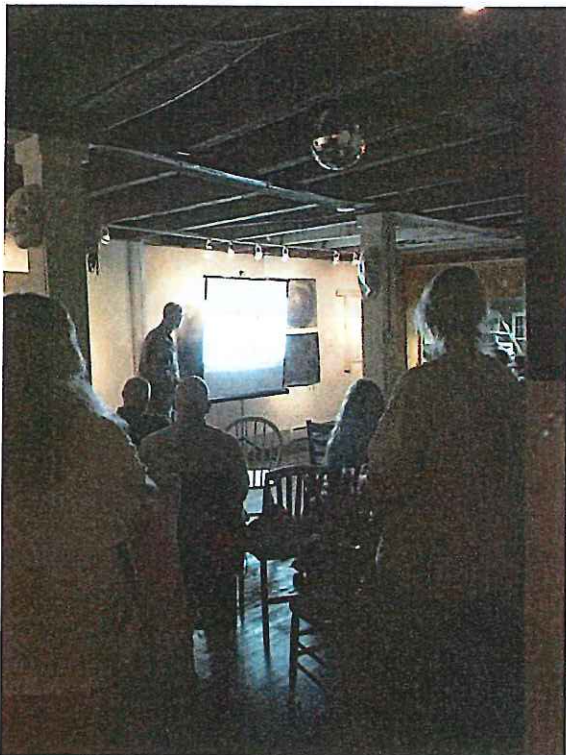
- Columbia Opportunities, Inc.
- Community Action of Greene County, Inc.
- Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties
- Hudson City Schools
- *Facilitated by* Dr. Maria Suttmeier, Superintendent of Hudson City Schools

**Disability Access Available**

*Refreshments will be provided and questions will be strongly encouraged.*



Congratulations to our longstanding Board member and Past President John Bowen for being recognized by the Greene County Legislature for his volunteer contributions! Here he is being congratulated by NYS Senator Amedore and Assemblyman Pete Lopez at the 2016 Senior Day!



The NYS Citizens Preparedness Course held at the Prattsville Art Center in November.

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Taste of Greyfox food drive held to benefit Community Action and other county food pantries.

| <b>GREY FOX SCHEDULE • SUNDAY • JULY 17, 2016</b>  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Presented by Our High Meadow Stage Sponsors:<br>ArtistWorks Academy of Bluegrass • Collings Guitars • Deering Banjos • Eastman Guitars • The Event Co • Northfield Mandolins   |   |  |
| <b>A Taste of Grey Fox Benefit Concert &amp; Food Drive<br/>~ High Meadow Stage ~</b>  |   |  |
| 10:00  | 10:00   |  |
|  | Dry Branch Fire Squad Gospel Set  |  |
| 10:30  |   |  |
| 11:00  | 11:00   |  |
|  | Grey Fox Scholarship Presentations<br>by Mary Tyler Doub and Ron Thomason |  |
| 11:30  | 11:30   |  |
|  | The Mike + Ruthy Duo  |  |
| 12:00  | 12:00   |  |
|  | The Stray Birds   |  |
| 12:30  | 12:30   |  |
|  | Joe Craven  |  |
| 1:00   | 1:00  |  |
|  | Della Mae   |  |
| 1:30   | 1:30  |  |
|  | Raffle Drawings   |  |
| 2:00   | 1:45  |  |
|  | Grey Fox Bluegrass Academy for Kids<br>Directed by Mark Panfil            |  |
| 2:30   |   |  |
| <p><b>*Join us again this year as we help fill the food pantries of Greene County by collecting pantry items and/or cash at the gate. That's your admission into 4 great hours of music and community. Patrons who come for the weekend: Please bring a hearty pantry item to donate to a great cause. All proceeds on Sunday will go directly to Community Action of Greene County.</b></p> <p>Sharing what we're all about:<br/>wonderful music and a strong sense of community.</p> <p>For recommended donation items,<br/>visit <a href="http://www.cagcny.org">www.cagcny.org</a></p> |   |  |

Community Action  
of Greene County, Inc.

Annual Report, January, 2016 through December, 2016

| Funding Source  | STATE                 | FEDERAL      | LOCAL        | PRIVATE      |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NYS Dept of State - Community Services Block Grant    |                       | \$247,502.73 |              |              |
| Greene County Dept. of Social Services                |                       |              | \$89,296.47  |              |
| Regional Food Bank of Northeast New York              |                       |              |              | \$6,052.00   |
| Columbia County Dept of Social Services               |                       |              | \$44,684.49  |              |
| Foundation Grants                                     |                       |              |              | \$57,750.00  |
| NYS Office of Victims Services                        | \$183,255.74          |              |              |              |
| Fee for Service & Program Income                      |                       |              |              | \$4,513.81   |
| Federal Family Violence Prevention                    |                       | \$30,110.32  |              |              |
| LDSS ( Domestic Violence Per Diems)                   |                       |              | \$615,539.88 |              |
| U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development      |                       | \$61,198.77  |              |              |
| Greene County Legislature                             |                       |              | \$37,265.00  |              |
| Donations   |                       |              |              | \$32,328.09  |
| NYS Office of Temp/Disab Assist (STEHF)               | \$65,805.52           |              |              |              |
| Transitional Housing Income                           |                       |              | \$6,889.43   |              |
| NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal         | \$312,988.26          |              |              |              |
| NYS Empower   | \$24,322.53           |              |              |              |
| Interest Income                                       |                       |              |              | \$516.93     |
| Legal Aid Society                                     |                       |              |              | \$3,753.75   |
| Pay it Forward Thrift Store Income                    |                       |              |              | \$62,518.03  |
| IN KIND Services, Non Monetary Donations and Services |                       |              |              | \$153,772.07 |
| Totals  | \$586,372.05          | \$338,811.82 | \$793,675.27 | \$321,204.68 |
| <b>TOTAL AGENCY INCOME:</b>                           | <b>\$2,040,063.82</b> |              |              |              |

Community Action of Greene County, Inc.  
Annual Income  
2016

