

Agency Newsletter

January 1st, 2024

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee

Our mission:: To provide services, with dignity and respect, that help people become self-sufficient

Hello Team:

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone had some memorable holiday time with friends and family. It's a new year with new beginnings. Today I want to talk about our Community Needs Assessment. Every three years we conduct an assessment of the counties that we serve to ensure that we are using our resources to address the greatest needs, while ensuring that we work with partners to promote collaboration and avoid duplication of services. As we learned from the pandemic, needs can change unexpectedly, so the Community Needs Assessment is an important tool to keep our finger on the pulse of the community. The full assessment is about 160 pages but we also do an executive summary. I am sharing this with you so you can understand what drives some of the direction we take with the agency. Please keep these findings in mind and of course share ideas you may have to improve outcomes in any of these areas.

Identified Needs

The community assessment found the greatest needs and concerns in the following areas:

- There is a lack of affordable and accessible childcare that meets the need of households in Orleans and Genesee Counties, especially for employed essential workers beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There is a lack of health care providers in both Orleans and Genesee counties (i.e. hospitals).
- The agency can play a larger role in addressing Health Related Social Needs to improve health literacy, reduce healthcare costs, and improve health outcomes.
- There is an increased need to coordinate efforts among providers to address food insecurities in Orleans and Genesee counties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There is an increased need to assist households with the delivery of food and household items or transportation to resources with food and household items, who have limited or no other means to assist in obtaining resources to address food insecurities.
- Orleans County is considered to be a “food desert” where there are little to no nutritional food options available (i.e. fast-food restaurants available with limited healthy, nutritional options to choose from).
- Low-income residents of Orleans and Genesee Counties lack financial literacy skills to manage their resources.
- The CAOG services may not be accessible to remote areas of the counties served by CAOG, especially if there is no available transportation.

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Identified Needs (cont'd)

- Low-income residents of Orleans and Genesee Counties lack financial literacy skills to manage their resources.
- The CAOG services may not be accessible to remote areas of the counties served by CAOG, especially if there is no available transportation.
- Low-income residents lack funds outside of their monthly income to pay for some items such as vehicle maintenance, house repairs, utilities, household (including pet food), and hygiene items.
- Orleans County dropout rates are high which correlates to lower income and risk of poverty.
- Public transportation is limited to route based services.
- There is limited available housing stock, and most homes are aging and in need of costly repair.
- Places to shelter and assist unhoused individuals are scarce.
- CAOG staff need to enhance their skills in specific areas such as the use of technology and fund development.
- Opioid addictions continue to take lives. Education and prevention is key.
- Orleans County continues to struggle with high teenage pregnancy rates.
- Current eligibility guidelines do not support the ALICE population.
- Community Action lacks brand recognition which impedes donations and a true community understanding of what the agency does for the community.

Recommendations

As a result of the community needs assessment, the following have been identified as recommendations:

- Continue driving the agency to breakdown silos and act as one agency providing wraparound services along with partners with the goal of helping people to become self-sufficient.
- Continue support and advocacy to ensure that working parents have access to safe and affordable daycare.
- Expand health related programs to enhance health literacy, address Health Related Social Needs, and partnership with health providers. Increase involvement with the NYHER Medicaid 1115 waiver to position the agency for potential Medicaid reimbursement. Explore acute care clinic opportunity.
- Explore additional food sources and partnerships to meet increasing demand for food. Explore avenues which may help customers grow their own food.
- Continue or expand programs which help customers to make healthy food choices.
- Pursue additional opportunities to promote financial literacy.
- Participate in partner programs to increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness.
- Explore expanding the Credit Recovery program to more Orleans County schools to increase high school graduation rates.
- Invest in agency education in fund development and grant management.
- Act as a community partner in preventing unnecessary death from overdose. Become a distribution site for fentanyl and xylazine test kits, naloxone, and educational materials. Enhance partnership with UConnectCare.
- Continue and strengthen agency advocacy of increasing eligibility rates so working people in the ALICE population can access resources.
- Increase marketing, success stories, community involvement, and relationship building to increase brand awareness and public understanding of the important role the agency serves. Focus and report outcomes.
- Seek and develop social enterprise opportunities to increase non-grant dependent revenue and increase agency stability.

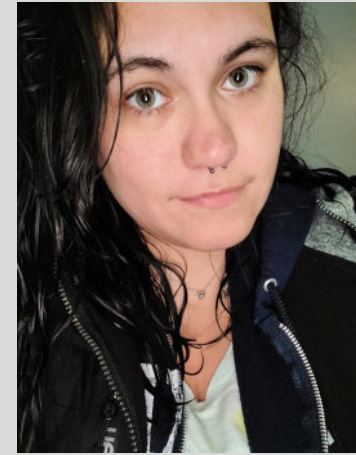
Be Part of the Solution!

Renée

Community Action
of
Orleans & Genesee

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Cassie Healy



Main Street Corner prides itself on employing individuals working in the Work Release Program from our local Correctional Facilities. We were fortunate enough to assist an individual from the Facility for an extended period of time and from the start, this person was hardworking, thorough and driven to do a great job every day for Cassie. No job was too big or not important enough for this person to always give 110%, Cassie saw real promise in this person and worked with them to enhance their skills and encourage them to work hard so that they would be ready to start over when released from the program. Through Cassie's diligent and unwavering coaching, this person was successfully released from the Work Release Program and allowed to look for employment outside the program to establish themselves once fully released. This individual made sure to let us know how grateful they were for the opportunity to work at the store and for all they learned. This person was quoted in a letter she wrote to Cassie and her Director that said "What CA does for everyone is definitely above and beyond and changes people's lives in so many ways. Cassie and CA made me feel like I was needed, important and that I truly mattered".

In July, Cassie was faced with the challenge of getting the store ready for the rebranding and grand reopening and had very little time to do so. She worked very collaboratively with her leadership and store employees to come up with a plan that could get the store cleaned, reorganized and ready to reopen. This proved to give her many problems to solve; from getting dumpsters to clean out many of the areas of the store that had been neglected to ensuring that she had staff to get the job done to still maintaining some store hours to allow our customers to continue to shop. Happily in September Cassie was able to do a grand reopening and renaming of the store which included a ribbon cutting with the Mayor of Albion and a huge sale that proved to be very successful. Cassie has gotten so many positive comments about the store and all the improvements which is a testament to her dedication and good leadership of her store team!

January 2024



WINTER COAT DRIVE

5073 Clinton St Rd | Batavia, NY

Community Action in Batavia is in need of new and used winter coats in all sizes and genders.

We are in particular need of kids coats.

No broken zippers, broken buttons, rips, or stains.



We provided over 70 families with winter coats so far this season!!

To schedule a donation or to receive services:
585-343-7798 x114 | ddodge@caoginc.org



Premiere Genesee Nursing Home's donation to Community Action of Orleans and Genesee, for Batavia's Christmas Program.

Some of the donated gifts for the 2023 Christmas Program.



Are you a Caregiver?

Please join us for a weekly respite Care Program!

Find us on Facebook at: Caregiver's Revitalize - Orleans County, NY



**1st & 3rd Thursdays from 1 - 4 p.m.
Albion at Christ Church Episcopal
26 S. Main St. Albion, NY 14411**

Please use PARK STREET ENTRANCE ONLY.



**2nd & 4th Thursdays from 1 - 4 p.m.
Community Action's Eastern Orleans Community Center
75 Public Square. Holley, NY 14470**

Email: Caregiversrevitalize@gmail.com

Phone: 585-209-9151 or 585-209-3416

Please email or call for more information, to register your care recipient or for volunteer opportunities.

**We're offering:
Organized activities,
support, and respite
for caregivers with
supervision for
those they care for.**

**This program is free
to all caregivers in
Orleans County**



**Acknowledge your
accomplishments!**

Set New Goals!

**Welcome
to 2024!**

View each day, as a new opportunity!



ORLEANS COUNTY WARMING CENTER

What to do when it's **CODE BLUE**

BELOW



32°F

If you need a warm place to stay, Oak Orchard Community Health, Orleans County and their Community Partners have a warm place to stay for you.

*When the temperature is **below 32 degrees** you can do the following during the day:*



- > **Go to the Hoag Library, 134 S Main Street Albion**
- Monday through Thursday 8:30am-8pm
- Friday 8:30am-5pm
- Saturday 10am-2pm

Overnight Warming Center is located at:

Christ Episcopal Church 26 S Main St Albion, NY and is open upon request.

For recorded information on the overnight warming center, please call 585-895-4090

Oak Orchard Community Health Center

- Warming Center Info:
(585) 895-4090
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Genesee County

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT'S... **CODE BLUE**

Below | 32°F

WHEN THE TEMPERATURE DROPS BELOW 32°

Under New York State guidance, those experiencing homelessness will be sheltered when it's 32 degrees or colder (including wind chill) outside.

In our communities, each county works collaboratively to provide suitable shelter when inclement weather happens.

Genesee
DSS and Sheriff's Dept.

If you are experiencing homelessness

Contact your local Department of Social Services during regular business hours
Call 2-1-1 for more information about referral services
If a referral agency is not available and you are about to spend the night outside, please call the local sheriff.

- Genesee DSS
585.344.2580
Sheriff's Dept.
585.345.3000
- Genesee DSS
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Child Care Resource and Referral is here to help you!

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) supports parents and families, child care providers, businesses and community partners by providing the following services:

Parents and Families:

- Provide listing of local child care programs based upon family need
- Inform about child development, early learning and quality child care
- Give information about state licensing requirements
- Share information about the Child Care Assistance program (Subsidy) administered by Department of Social Services

Child Care Provider:

- Support through licensing process
- Assist with compliance issues and increase/ improve quality
- Provide convenient and flexible on site staff trainings
- Free assistance with Health Care Plans

Businesses and Community Partners:

- Share information about child care needs and availability in area
- Work with employers to support employee child care needs
- Advocate for quality child care and early childhood workforce



CCR&R Orleans (585) 589-5088

CCR&R Genesee (585) 343-7727

Genesee County



**NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES
WALK-IN HOURS
Batavia**

Tuesday 9am - 4pm
Thursday 9am - 4pm
Friday 9am - 12pm

CLOSED 12pm - 1pm for lunch

Alternate times are available

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

585-343-7798

ddodge@caoginc.org

Orleans County



**ALBION EMERGENCY SERVICES
WALK-IN HOURS**

Effective Tuesday, September 5th

Tuesday 9am - 4pm
Thursday 9am - 4pm
Friday 9am - 12pm

CLOSED 12pm - 1pm for lunch

Alternate times are available

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

(585) 589-5605



Food Distribution

Municipal Parking Lot

165 South Platt Street, Albion, NY 14411



9:00 AM - until gone

(Due to traffic issues, please do NOT line up prior to 7:30 AM!!)

Family information is required. In order to keep the distribution coming to our community we have to report on those served.

2024 Scheduled Dates:

All are Mondays

- * January 22nd
- * February 12th
- * March 11th
- * April 8th
- * May 13th
- * June 10th



Questions: Please call (585) 589-5605 x 117.



Thank you to all our Volunteers!

REMINDER ...

The Agency will be closed
for these Holidays in January
2024.

January 1st - Happy New Year!
and
January 15th -
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



**It's not too late...
CALL NOW to get a
HEAD START in school for your
3 or 4-YEAR OLD.**

HEAD START

**has half-day openings in
Albion
(must be 4 & resident of Albion CSD)
Kendall
(residents of Kendall or Holley CSD)
Batavia & Medina**

**FUN & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
WARM, NURTURING TEACHERS
HEALTHY MEALS & SNACKS
HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL
SCREENINGS
RESOURCES & SUPPORT FOR
PARENTS**

***** FREE *****

Call: 585-589-5683

DO WE QUALIFY?

**Food Stamps / TANF / SSI? – YES!
Foster Child? – YES!
Homeless? – YES!**

Family Size	Gross Income
2	\$25,636
3	\$32,318
4	\$39,000
5	\$45,682
6	\$52,364
7	\$59,046
8	\$65,728



Send a message:



Hello Community Action,

The Office of Head Start has identified our Head Start, Early Head Start & Early Head Start Child Care Partnership as “chronically underenrolled.” While we believe there are a variety of reasons for this, we also believe THERE ARE MORE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITIES WE COULD AND SHOULD BE SERVING. (Most of the openings are in half-day classes.)

We need your help!!! Please share the information above with agencies, clients, family & friends to make sure children and families in our communities get a HEAD START.

*Thank you all for your support,
Your Head Start Colleagues*



Community Action's Tree on the Orleans County's Courthouse Square.



Albion High School FFA donated 37,000 pounds of food to the Albion Food Pantry!!



Canalside Tattoo donated to The Holiday Toy Fund.

Lots of toys were donated!



Donation from Crosby's



Students from Albion Middle School helped to sort toys.



Baxter employees assisted with toy packing.



Students from Albion Elementary School's Giving Tree collected 1,007 personal-care items for the Emergency Pantry.



The Wishing Tree HAD many wishes that were granted, and several Coupons purchased to help others in the community. It was such a success that we were asked to extend the time and keep it up!

We will continue having the Wishing Tree for the month of January.

Thank you to everyone that helped out!



January

2024

Our January sales are on the Calendar. Keep a look out for our Pop-Up sales on our Facebook page.

Cookies With Santa on Dec 16th was a great time for all!
Santa met with several kids and had some great conversations about Christmas while enjoying some treats and hot cocoa.

Main Street Corner Thrifts, Gifts and More
 131 S. Main Street , Albion, NY 14411
 585-589-1430

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Closed 1	Closed 2	Closed 3	30% Off Holiday items	30% off Furniture	.25 all Media and games
Closed 7	Closed 8	Closed 9	Closed 10	11 Fill a Bag of Books for \$5	12 Fill a Bag ANY Clothing \$10	15% off Linens
Closed 14	Closed 15	Closed 16	Closed 17	18 Knick-Knacks 30% off	19 BOGO Dishes	30% Cream and Sugar dishes
Closed 21	Closed 22	Closed 23	Closed 24	25 .50 vases	26 Lighting and Lamps 30% off	30% Off Jewelry
Closed 28	Closed 29	Closed 30	Closed 31			

*** WE ARE STARTING TO ACCEPT DONATIONS OF MAKEUP, HAIR PRODUCTS, SHOES, HANDBAGS, SUITS/ TUX, and TIES FOR OUR PROM EVENT THIS YEAR! ***
 When you donate let us know that it is for Prom, so we can make sure to put it with our supplies.