

# Agency Newsletter

June 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 Community Action Month and 60th Year Anniversary of Community Action!  
The warm weather is finally here!!

We have some big events in June. As previously announced, Bonnie Malakie, Director of Children and Youth Service will be retiring at the end of June. Considering this I am taking the opportunity to start restructuring to best position us for future success. This is phase 1 of a 2-part reorganization. It is important that we have the right people in roles to keep our largest program, Head Start, running while we work to increase enrollment. At the same time, it is important for us to look at all programs for opportunity to innovate, streamline, expand, improve, and bring in new revenue streams.



With that I am pleased to announce the following appointments:

Ryan Lasal is new to our organization. He holds a master's degree in special education as well as a master's degree in strategic leadership. He has held a number of leadership roles focused on innovation and process improvement. He also taught Special Education at the Lyndonville Central School. Ryan will take the new role of Strategic Director of Children's Services and Special Projects. This role will focus on overall strategy and innovation over all Children's services as well as work on special projects for the agency.

Pam Wadhams has worked with our Head Start programs since 1993. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge about Head Start programming, ERSEA, and Head Start Policy and Regulations such as Performance Standards. Pam will focus on the day-to-day operations of our Head Start programs as we work toward growth and public awareness. Pam holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology with Family Studies Focus. She also attended SUNY Brockport to study Elementary Education. Pam is also a graduate of the Head Start Management Fellows Program. Pam will take the role of Director of Head Start.

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Please join me in congratulating Pam and welcoming Ryan into their new roles as well as in wishing Bonnie a happy retirement. Here is a link to the press coverage in the Orleans Hub: <https://orleanshub.com/head-start-director-to-retire-after-24-years-helping-young-learners/>.

In other news I was pleasantly surprised and honored to be the subject of a Genesee Valley Pennysaver "My Hometown Stories" feature. Check it out here: [https://www.gvpennysaver.com/stories/personal/renee-hungerford-a-beacon-of-change-in-community-empowerment/article\\_8ea1c454-0dfe-11ef-98ad-f362a135ba02.html](https://www.gvpennysaver.com/stories/personal/renee-hungerford-a-beacon-of-change-in-community-empowerment/article_8ea1c454-0dfe-11ef-98ad-f362a135ba02.html). My hope is this article will let more people know about our agency and the good work we do.

Remember....June 14th is our annual in-service. We are going to have speakers from all agency programs so we can all learn what each program offers so we can better work together as a team to provide wraparound support to our customers. This year our theme is "A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats" including a nautical themed presentation by me and lots of water related music. Hopefully, you will recognize some of our local beautiful waterways in the photos! Skip Helfrich will be our speaker and we will enjoy a fabulous lunch catered by Zambistro. The event will be at the Elk's Lodge in Albion. I am looking forward to seeing all of you. Thank you for all that you do!

*Be Part of the Solution!*

Renée

### Community Action's Mission Statement

To provide services, with dignity and respect, that help people become self-sufficient.



### Community Action's Promise

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Community Action  
of  
Orleans & Genesee

# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

## Jan Albanese

Jan Albanese has been the Manager of the ACT Program of Community Action for over 25 years. She has consistently done an excellent job of assuring the staff has met requirements, standards and program expectations. The program has changed many times and expanded into Genesee County under her leadership. Jan has always known that it takes collaboration and cooperation to meet the program and agency goals. She has worked with all school districts, served on many different Boards and received various awards related to youth and community service. This includes being on (and chairing) the Orleans County Community Services Board for over 15 years. Jan has always supported the entire agency. A few years ago Jan agreed to temporarily handle duties related to the agency website and it's management. She develops and adds posts, seeks out information from agency programs to assure items are updated on our social media, and she has done this all willingly. She also develops the monthly newsletter and attempts to engage staff and participants from all areas. Most recently, she joined the NYSCAA committee to spread the news about Community Action's 60th Birthday! She has made it a priority for everyone to know about the good work our Community Action agency has been doing for almost 60 years in both counties.

Thank you Jan for always thinking of the entire agency and being willing to do whatever is asked of you! You are a role model and example to others and understand the value of the staff and services of Community Action!

June 2024





# Head Start director to retire after 24 years helping young learners

## Pam Wadhams will step into role for Bonnie Malakie at Community Action



By Ginny Kropf, correspondent

ALBION – Community Action of Orleans and Genesee has announced some changes in its Head Start program. Bonnie Malakie is retiring on June 30 after 24 years as Head Start's director. Before stepping into the director's position, Malakie spent eight years as a consultant for Head Start. Filling the director's position at Head Start will be Pam Wadhams, who has been associate director of the program.

Stepping into a new role is Ryan Lasal as strategic director of children's services and special projects. Hungerford explained the chain of command will be Wadhams reporting to Lasal and Lasal to Hungerford.

The Head Start program has been a vital part of Community Action's services to the community since 1965, with Head Start for children aged 3 and 4 and Early Head Start for 18-month to 3-year-olds in Medina, Albion and Batavia, and universal pre-K in Kendall.

Early Head Start Childcare Partnership partners with day care facilities for infants and toddlers. A childcare resource and referral program connects parents with

Photo by Ginny Kropf: From left, Renee Hungerford, executive director of Community Action, and Bonnie Malakie, retiring director of Head Start's Children and Youth Services, stand outside the Head Start office on east State Street in Albion with Pam Wadhams, who will replace Malakie when she retires June 30, and Ryan Lasal, recently hired as strategic director of children's services and special projects.

daycare and subsidies. "We also help people start their own daycare facilities," Hungerford said. In addition, there is a small home-based program with six slots available. Currently, 173 children are served in Head Start, 58 in the Childcare Partnership and 38 in Early Head Start.

Head Start's new leadership brings several decades of experience to their jobs. Lasal spent the last 10 years at CRFS. "I found there has been an extremely solid foundation built here," Lasal said. "This program serves a lot of kids and does extraordinary things in the community. I'm looking forward, along with Pam, to continuing to build on that foundation and move it into the future."

Wadhams has worked more than 30 years with Head Start. "I see us being a strong presence in the community and continuing to support families and their children," she said. "We are in the process of expanding the pre-school program to a full day, something families want and need. I love being able to make a difference in the community I grew up in."

"I am doing some restructuring of our children's services to reinvigorate these programs and increase enrollment," Hungerford said. "I aim to put new focus on our Head Start programs to ensure children are truly getting a head start and enter the public school systems fully prepared. We can do more with technology and innovation to set our students up for success."

Malakie said she plans to spend the summer relaxing and doing more with her husband Larry. "This will include volunteering," she said. "I'm taking a new path and looking forward. I will continue to support Community Action. I will be leaving a piece of my heart here." She added that through the years, there has been one constant at Community Action, and that is change.

"But we've been able to keep up with required changes, expected changes and positive changes," Malakie said. "I'm leaving everything in good hands with a very dedicated and committed staff with strong leadership and two new directors. The difference we make in the lives of children and families every day is what has kept me here all these years."

The Agency will be closed on  
Wednesday, June 19, 2024  
in honor of Juneteenth.



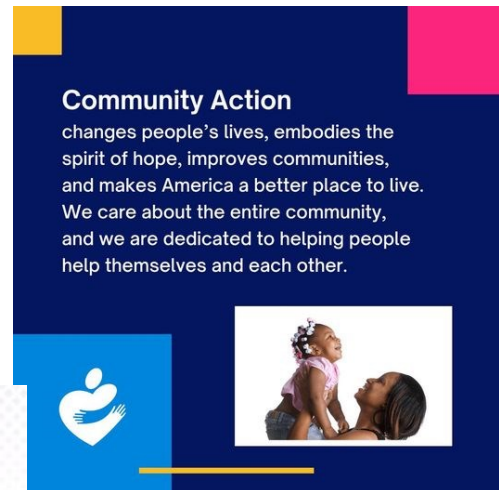
Can you find our four (4) billboards  
in Orleans & Genesee Counties?



# Celebrating 60 Years of Services Nationally.



The Orleans County Legislature presented a proclamation in honor of Community Action's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and also May as Community Action month.



Our President has recognized May as Community Action Month and is committed to provide the support needed to uplift our communities.



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The President of the United States







## Wendy Cruz

Wendy is a recent SUNY Brockport graduate.

She is a First Generation graduate in her family.

Wendy obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology,  
with a minor in Sociology, in December.

Her graduation ceremony was on Friday, May 17, 2024.

**Wendy is a Health Educator for the ACT Program.**

**She is in charge of our Club implementation.**

**Congratulations Wendy!**





# WATTS UP IN WEATHERIZATION

The Weatherization Assistance Program plays a crucial role in helping homeowners with limited incomes make their homes more energy-efficient, comfortable, and safe. It offers a range of benefits that contribute to financial savings, improved health, and environmental sustainability. The Weatherization Team at Community Action of Orleans & Genesee has numerous years of experience & expertise. Multiple certifications are held within this team through the Building Performance Institute (BPI) & New York States Weatherization Directors Association. (NYSWDA)

I would like to recognize this team for their years of dedication, hard work & commitment.

Jacquelyn Dunham, Director of Operations/COO, 1-3-2022

James Soccio, Weatherization Coordinator, 11-4-1987

Cathy Brien, Weatherization Operations Assistant, 8-8-1995

Jeffrey Atwell, Weatherization Energy Auditor/Quality Control Inspector, 1-29-1991

Joseph Wright, Weatherization Crew Leader/Energy Auditor, 4-13-2009

Gary Elich, Weatherization Crew Foreman, 9-24-1981

Daniel Healy, Weatherization Crew Technician, 12-29-2023

Dean Clark, Weatherization Crew Technician, 5/6/2024

Throughout the years this team has worked together with a shared vision for creating more sustainable and energy-efficient homes for our communities.

In essence, the Weatherization Assistance Program isn't just about improving homes; it's about improving lives. It's about ensuring that every family, regardless of their economic circumstances, can enjoy a safe, comfortable, and energy-efficient home. Weatherization is apparent within the homes it impacts and the brighter future it creates.



For more information please call:

Orleans: (585) 589-5605 Genesee: (585) 343-7798





On Friday, June 14th  
the Agency will be closed  
for our annual day of  
staff training.

Use this QR code to see the latest Job Opportunities at Community Action.  
-or- visit our Website ([caoginc.org](http://caoginc.org)) and look under the 'Join Our Team' tab.

## Start a New Career Today!

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee, Inc  
is hiring!



## Renee Hungerford: A Beacon of Change in Community Empowerment

In the heart of Genesee County, there resides a force of change, a catalyst for community empowerment. Renee Hungerford, Executive Director/CEO/CIO of Community Action of Orleans and Genesee since 2020, embodies this transformative spirit. With a background in data analytics and a passion for healthcare, Renee has brought a unique blend of expertise to her role, redefining the agency's mission and impact.



Renee Hungerford

Renee's journey to Community Action is a testament to her dedication to making a difference. Born and raised in Buffalo, Renee moved to Orleans County in the 90s, raising daughters Cassandra, Tiffany, and Cheyenne-Rain with her husband Mark. Now residing in Watertown with their two dogs, Renee says she loves Lake Ontario. "There's no place I would rather be," she says. She plays saxophone in the Watertown Concert Band, playing free concerts throughout the summer at

Centennial Park. She loves seeing the crowd come out to enjoy the music and she loves playing with the talented musicians.

Professionally, she always emphasizes being "part of the solution," and she volunteers for Lyndonville's Lion's Club, serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) and the Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS).

After three decades in the banking industry, when she was asked to relocate, Renee opted instead to pivot her career to healthcare, where she could use her skills and expertise in data analytics toward a "perfect blend of public health, epidemiology, and data analytics." Earning a Master's Degree in Health Informatics, she was determined to help fix the broken healthcare system. She says she developed "a real understanding of how important it is to address the social determinants of health like safe housing, food insecurity, and health literacy, to improve health outcomes" in her first position at Oak Orchard Health. As the CEO position at Community Action drew her in, she was excited to help impact people's health outcomes even more in the new position.

Since assuming her role in October 2020, Renee spearheaded initiatives to address root causes of poverty and improve health outcomes in the community. Her approach focuses on recognizing that holistic solutions are essential for sustainable change. Community Action offers a comprehensive suite of programs, including Head Start, Case Management, Emergency Services, Weatherization, Social Care, a thrift store, food pantries, childcare subsidies / referrals, job development, tutoring, and more, all designed to empower individuals and families on their journey toward self-sufficiency.

One of the agency's flagship programs, the Axis of Care, partners with healthcare entities such as Oak Orchard Health to deliver vital health services to underserved populations, bridging the gap between medical care and social services.



Renee Hungerford and Karen Koser

Similarly, the Stone Soup program collaborates with the Orleans Cooperative Extension to promote healthy living through nutrition education, cooking classes, and access to fresh, locally sourced foods.

Renee is dedicated to serving the community. She acknowledges the uphill battle of effecting meaningful change in the healthcare system but finds solace in the knowledge that even on the most challenging days, her team knows they make a difference in the community. Coming to the agency amidst the pandemic and while the agency grieved the death of her predecessor, Renee explains, "We have come a long way working toward a mindset of being one strong agency. We continue to adapt and improve every day." Renee glows about her incredible team, too, saying, "The people that work at our agency are special indeed. They take genuine care of our communities."

As she looks toward the future, Renee envisions a community where partnerships flourish, resources are maximized, and individuals are empowered to overcome barriers to success. With unwavering determination and a compassionate heart, she leads Community Action of Orleans and Genesee on a path of progress, embodying the belief that together, we can build a brighter tomorrow.

Love to write? You could earn CASH when you share your original story, personal experience, community happening or school event with us! It may be featured on our popular website for all to see and even selected for print! Go to My Hometown at [www.gvpennysaver.com](http://www.gvpennysaver.com) or email [hometown@gvpennysaver.com](mailto:hometown@gvpennysaver.com)!

MY **Hometown**  
STORIES





## ALBION EMERGENCY SERVICES WALK-IN HOURS

409 East State Street, Albion, NY

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9am - 4pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9am - 4pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am - 12pm</b>

Alternate times are available  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**  
**(585) 589-5605**




## NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES WALK-IN HOURS Batavia

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9am - 4pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9am - 4pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am - 12pm</b>

Alternate times are available  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**  
**585-343-7798**

## 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 15th (note new date!)
- \* May 13th
- \* June 10th

**Next Event, Save-the-Date**

**June 10th**



**Questions: please call (585) 589-5605 x 103**





**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

**Summer Solstice 2024: When Is The First Day of Summer?**

This year, the first day of summer, also known as the summer solstice, is [Thursday, June 20](#).

The true solstice will arrive in the Northern Hemisphere at exactly 4:51 p.m. EST. Since the Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the Sun in June, it receives more sunlight during the course of a day. The North Pole's tilt toward the Sun is greatest at the solstice, so this event marks the longest day of the year north of the equator.



The summer solstice and subsequent longest day of the year are celebrated by many cultures around the world with numerous traditions, holidays and festivals. From sunrise gatherings to midsummer festivals, summer solstice celebrations certainly blow the winter cobwebs away.

# Are you a Caregiver?



**Please join us for a weekly  
Respite Care Program!**

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



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

**Please use PARK STREET ENTRANCE ONLY.**



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

**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.**

**Email: [Caregiversrevitalize@gmail.com](mailto:Caregiversrevitalize@gmail.com)**

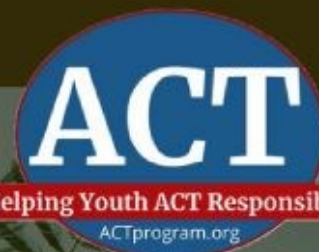
**Phone: 585-209-9151 or 585-209-3416**

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





Preparing for fun in  
**June**



ENJOY YOUR  
SUMMER, BE  
READY FOR (Almost)  
EVERYTHING

*You'll thank yourself later!*

🌈 Sunscreen

🌈 Water bottles

🌈 Gum

🌈 Bugspray

🌈 Trail Mix

🌈 Towels

🌈 Ice-packs

🌈 Deodorant

🌈 Wet Wipes



A plan is **always** better than no plan!





## Congratulations to Jake Lawlor

on receiving his Bachelor's degree from Oswego on May 11, 2024.

Jake had been our Marketing and Media Intern from January in to May this year. During his time with us he made many changes to the website, interviewed staff and took many photos and film of our services in action. He then developed an agency video that we now have to use for PR purposes. He said he learned a great deal about what our agency does, how to market programs and how much work it takes to come up with a final product in this area.

His final report/project was well-received by his advisor and he earned 6 credits for his time with us (240 hours). This time was all able to be counted towards our in-kind goals for the year!

Ryan Lasal, our new Strategic Director of Children's Services is reaching out to other colleges and programs to increase our involvement in their higher education intern/volunteer programs for the future! We know that having volunteers, including student Interns is an important part of our mission.

Bonnie

# June

## Main Street Corner

— Thrifts, Gifts and More —

### Store Hours

Wednesday: 11 AM to 4 PM (Donation 11 – 3)

Thursday : 11 AM to 5 :30 PM (Donation 11-3)

Friday : 11 AM to 5 :30 PM (Donation 11-3)

Saturday : 10 :30 AM to 3 PM

- If you would like to make a donation outside of donation hours, please give us a call to schedule an appointment !

131 S. Main Street, Albion, New York  
(585) 589-1430

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<sup>1</sup> BOGO Clothing
<sup>2</sup>	<sup>3</sup>	<sup>4</sup>	<sup>5</sup> Prom Dresses \$10	<sup>6</sup> Knick Knacks 15% off	<sup>7</sup> Small Appliances 20% off	<sup>8</sup> BOGO shoes
<sup>9</sup>	<sup>10</sup>	<sup>11</sup>	<sup>12</sup> Kids Toys 50% off	<sup>13</sup> Pots/Pans and Lids 15 % off	<sup>14</sup> <b>STORE CLOSED</b> <b>Staff Training</b>	<sup>15</sup> Glassware 15 % off
<sup>16</sup>	<sup>17</sup>	<sup>18</sup>	<sup>19</sup> <b>CLOSED</b> <b>Holiday</b>	<sup>20</sup> DVD/CD/Cassette 50% off	<sup>21</sup> BOGO Kids Clothes/Shoes	<sup>22</sup> BOGO Vases
<sup>23</sup>	<sup>24</sup>	<sup>25</sup>	<sup>26</sup> Lamps/Lighting 50% off	<sup>27</sup> Electronics 30% off	<sup>28</sup> One Stop Gift Section 15 % off	<sup>29</sup> RED/WHITE/BLUE SALE 20% off (if it has any of these colors on it get 20 % off)
<sup>30</sup>						

REMEMBER TO DONATE YOUR PROM DRESSES/SUITS/SHOES/ACCESSORIES and UNUSED MAKEUP to HELP OTHER FUTURE STUDENTS!

# Eastern Orleans Community Center      JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 June Fest Chili \$1.00
2	3 Goulash Garlic Bread Salad	4 Tuna Sandwich Chicken Soup Chips/Pears	5 Shepherds Pie Salad Biscuits	6 Turkey Sandwiches Soup Salad,	7 Chicken Stuffing Bake Tossed Salad	8
9	10 Spanish Rice Garden Salad Garlic Bread	11 Ham Sandwich Salad Mixed Fruit	12 Fathers Day Lunch Cheese Burger French Fries	13 Chili Garden Salad Garlic Bread	14 Center Closed Staff Inservice	15
16	17 Spaghetti and Broccoli Garlic Bread	18 Chicken Soup Chicken Sandwich	19 Juneteenth Center Closed	20 TACO DAY Chips	21 Mac-N-Cheese Peas	22
23	24 Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread Garden Salad	25 Hot Dogs Baked Beans, Fried Potatoes, Garden Salad	26 Pasta Salad Garden Salad Fruit Salad	27 Meatball Subs Green Beans Salad, Fruit	28 Fish Sandwich Potato Salad Carrots	29
30	<div> <div> 6/1 June Fest (Chili) 11am-2pm  6/10 Stone Soup Class 1:45-3:00pm  6/13 Care Givers Here 1pm-4:00pm </div> <div> 6/17 Stone Soup Class  6/21 Fire Dept. does Blood Pressure Check  6/26 Promote Health With Katie </div> </div>					

Milk, coffee or water provided with meals  
A \$2.00 donation is appreciated but not required  
Menu is subject to change due to availability of supplies.

75 Public Square PO Box 206  
Holley NY 14477  
585-638-6395

Bingo: Mon, Wed, Fri @ 12:00 pm  
Food Giveaway : Mon ,Wed, Fri, @ 10:30am  
Holley Hustlers: Tue, Wed, Fri @ 1pm



# Father's Day Luncheon



June 12, 2024

11:00am – 12:00pm

Bingo to follow lunch

*Everyone Welcome*



Eastern Orleans Community Center

*75 Public Square*

*Holley, New York 14470  
(585) 638-6395*

