

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee

Employee Newsletter

March 1, 2025

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

Hello Team:

As you are aware, in January we experienced a temporary pause in our ability to draw down federal funds. I was relieved to share with you on January 29th, that the funding pause was rescinded and by the end of that week, we were able to draw as normal. I also shared that we need to remain cautious and vigilant. We recognize that the current administration needs to be fiscally responsible, and unnecessary expenditures should be reviewed and trimmed as appropriate. However, the good work we do is far from unnecessary, in contrast, we offer vital services to help people overcome poverty, give children a good start in life, help people to obtain employment, and we ourselves, as staff, are a vital part of our local economy. This is the kind of information we need to show when risks to funding arise. It is important in all our conversations, that we make known, the value of the services we provide. Reporting outcomes and results is our most important tool in conveying this information. Metrics like “% of children are kindergarten ready,” or “% of people who are now able to obtain a reliable source of nutritious food” are the type of phrases that prove our value. Statements like this are more meaningful than “# of food boxes provided” because they demonstrate how we are helping people to become self-sufficient. When customer facing staff is working with customers, it is important for us to ask ourselves, “is the action I am taking helping this individual or family to succeed?”. “Am I working with this customer to determine the root causes of their financial struggle and am I providing wrap-around services and referrals to assist?” And finally, “what kind of follow-up will be necessary to ensure this customer stays on the road to success?” This is not easy work, changing lives rarely is.

With that it is easy to understand how we may all be feeling stress and apprehension. Just reading the news can cause anxiety with so many rapid changes and uncertainty. First, I want to assure you that leadership is working hard to make our voices heard. In March, I will be traveling to Washington DC along with leaders from Community Action Agencies from across the nation to ensure that Congress knows the important role we play in our country. We are grateful for the funding we receive to accomplish positive change in lives and can assure this funding is an investment with a great return. Our commitment to ROMA (results-oriented management and accountability) demonstrates our mission to help people overcome poverty and build a stronger middle-class economy by ensuring we not only provide services, but also, results.

Second, I want to remind you that our agency offers valuable resources that can help us cope with stress, and many other challenges. Life happens to all of us! Taking advantage of these benefits is completely confidential and can make a real difference during difficult circumstances. I highly encourage everyone to get to know more about these benefits.

BalanceCare – this is a health advocacy service offered through Paychex. If you need help with a healthcare or insurance issue, simply call BalanceCare at 1-877-598-8617. You will get a personal care guide who will help you navigate the healthcare system.

Continued.....



EAP (Employee Assistance Program) – this program offered through Unum gives you access to services and counselors to help with personal, family or work issues. Stress, anxiety, relationship issues, divorce, anger, grief and loss, work conflicts, parenting problems, addiction, eating disorders, mental illness. They can help you find eldercare, financial services such as budgeting and debt management. This service is available to all employees, their spouses/domestic partners, dependent children, parents and parent-in-laws. You can contact them by phone 800-854-1446 or online at unum.com/lifebalance.

Please use the link below to view the flyers in our SharePoint site.

<https://caoginc.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/CompanyWeb/EnF6tZweJ6tLjlslukfdxFzUBWWJOghJusg937ifCTF|pqq?e=ZII5Jj>

If you have questions about these resources, please don't hesitate to contact Lisa Elschker or Tina Schleede. We are fortunate to have a wonderful Human Resources team that is here to help.

Thank you for your commitment to our community and agency. Think spring, it has to be coming soon!

Be Part of the Solution

Renée

SNOW

SNOW

GO AWAY!



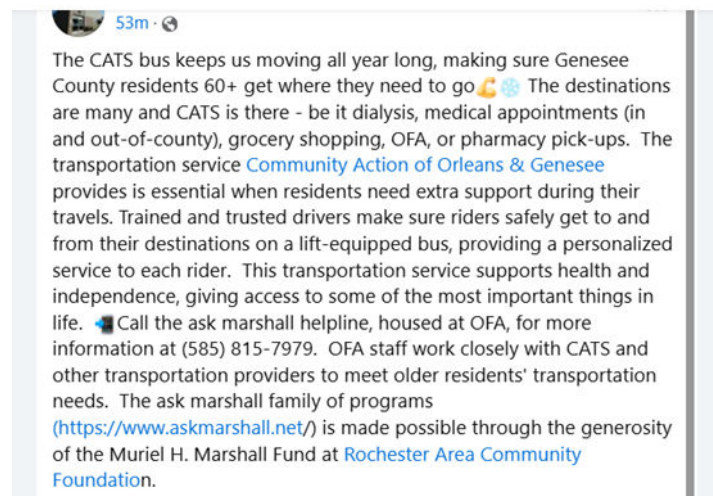
KUDOS Willie and Community Action Transportation System

From Courtney Iburi, AmeriCorps Senior RSVP Director

“Through my role in the Marshall programs, I help promote awareness of the programs. At Christmas time this year, I saw an opportunity to take this picture and I introduced myself to Willie. He graciously let me take a picture, considering I probably looked a bit crazed coming up to him in the parking lot at Aldi during the holiday rush of things!”

“We’ll be posting this tomorrow and wanted to let you know we appreciate all you and the drivers do for older adults in our County. I will put a little bit of advertising funds towards this to spread awareness”

Article submitted by Courtney Iburi, AmeriCorps Senior RSVP Director and posted on OFA FaceBook page





Celebrating National Agriculture Week: March 21 – 27, 2025

National Agriculture Week is a special time for our community to come together and honor the backbone of our local economy – our farmers and agricultural workers. This week, organized by the Agriculture Council of America, is dedicated to recognizing the essential contributions of those who work tirelessly to feed and sustain us.

In our community, agriculture is more than just an industry, it's a way of life. The fields, barns, and pastures that surround us are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and resilience of our neighbors and friends. From dawn to dusk, they ensure that we have fresh, nutritious food on our tables and contribute to the well-being of our local economy.

As a non-profit organization deeply rooted in this community, we understand the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. During National Agriculture Week and every day, let's take the opportunity to celebrate and support our local farmers.





Safety Corner: March 2025

Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls

Slips, trips and falls are among the most common workplace accidents, but they are also some of the most preventable. Here are some key tips to help keep everyone safe:

1. **Keep Walkways Clear** - Ensure that all walkways are free of clutter, cords and other obstacles that could cause someone to trip.
2. **Clean Up Spills Immediately** - Clean up all spills right away and use “Wet Floor” signs to alert others.
3. **Use Proper Footwear** - Wear shoes with good tractions, especially in areas that might be slippery or uneven.
4. **Report Hazards** - If you notice a potential hazard, report it to your supervisor immediately.

By staying vigilant and following these simple steps, we can significantly reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls in our workplace. Let's work together to create a safer environment for everyone.

Stay Safe,
The Safety Team



March 8 2025



WOMEN'S DAY

"Today, we are celebrating the strength, determination, and resilience of women everywhere."

~MICHELLE OBAMA

CELEBRATING A GROWTH MINDSET IN



MARCH



-With ACT

BORED AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING FUN?

FREE FUN ACTIVITIES ANYBODY WOULD LOVE

TRANSFORM YOUR FREE TIME;
DISCOVER YOUR PASSION

Connect with your community:

volunteer at Orleans Koinonia Kitchen; get **free food** while you're there! (every Thursdays)

Have a green thumb?

Join **Cornell Cooperative Extension March 15th @ the 4H Fair**
SEEDS TO SEEDLINGS: Get a jump on the growing season and learn the secrets to successfully growing plants from seeds!

**RUNNING
OUT OF
TIME?**

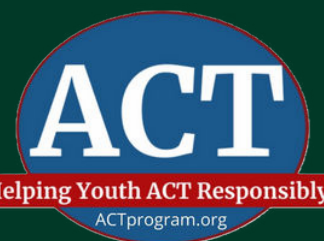
NEED TO REACH YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE
HOURS GOAL?

Reach out to us at Community Action!

(585) 589-5605

wcruz@caoginc.org

We got you



March

2025

Sales Calendar

Hours

Sun/Mon : CLOSED

Tuesday : 11 AM - 4 PM (Donation by appointment only)

Wednesday : 11 AM - 4 PM (Donations : 11 AM - 3 PM)

Thursday : 11 AM - 5 :30 PM (Donations :11 AM - 3 PM)

Friday : 11 AM - 5 : 30 PM (Donations : 11 AM - 3 PM)

Saturday : 10 :30 AM - 3 PM (Donations by appointment only)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOGO Valentines Decor
2	3	4 50% off Winter Jackets	5 30% off Furniture	6 20% off Hand Bags/ Purses	7 BOGO Shoes	8 BOGO Puzzles and Games
9	10	11 20% off Linens	12 20% off Knick Knacks	13 30% off Small Appliances	14 50% off Kids Toys	15 20% off Electronics
16	17	18 BOGO Lamps and Lighting	19 50% off Personal Care/Medical Equip	20 50% off Luggage Cases	21 BOGO DVD and CD	22 50% off ALL WOMEN Clothing
23	24	25 20% off Glassware	26 50% off Porcelain Dolls	27 20% off Chairs	28 20% off Hand Bags/ Purses/ Backpacks	29 50% off ALL MENS CLOTHING
30	31					

Contact Information

Call: 585-589-1430

Text: 585-640-1329

Email: mainstreetthriftstore@caoginc.org

Facebook: Main Street Corner Thrifts, Gifts and More