

WestCOP's Community Action Programs helped 4,799 individuals in 2,477 households with services during the COVID-19 Pandemic from July through November 2020.

# Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.

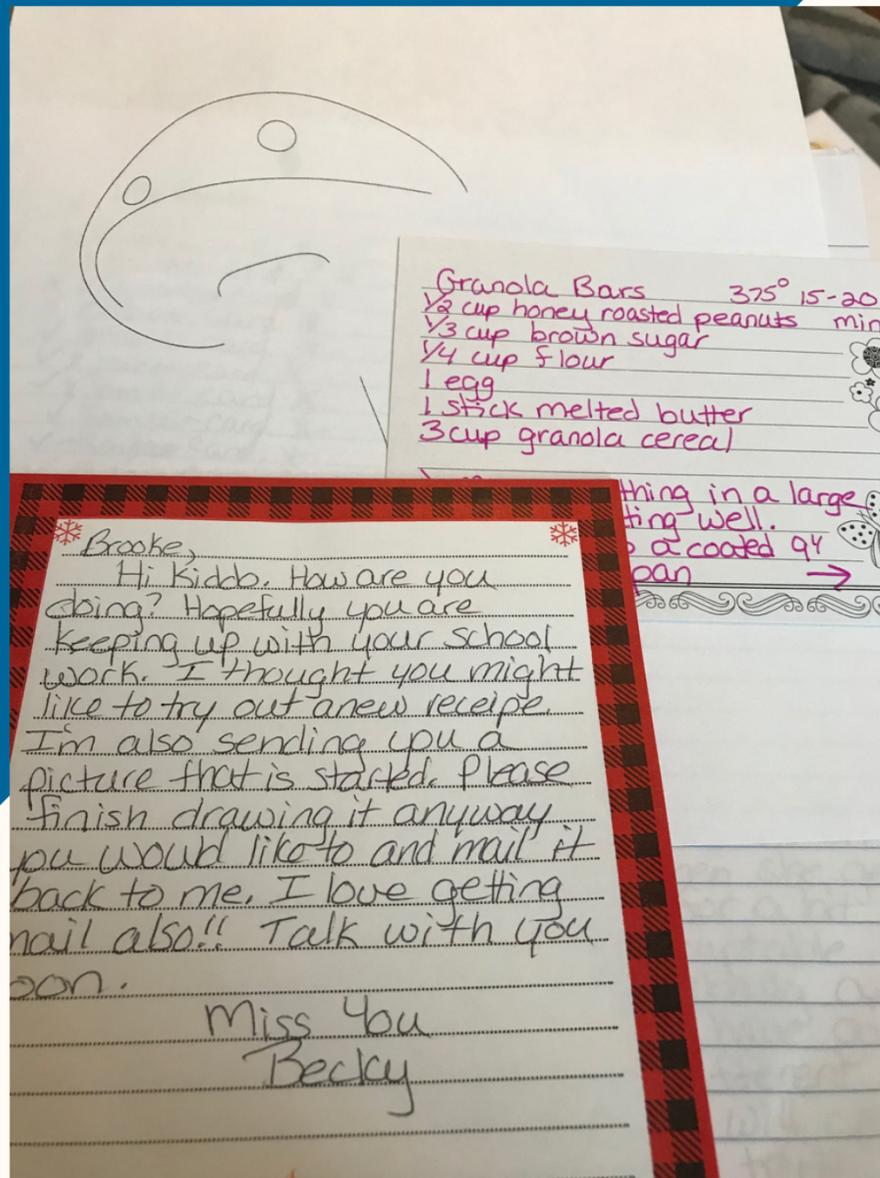
## Fighting Food & Clothing Insecurity in the Community



WestCOP held a Fatherhood Initiative event at one of their Head Start locations where children and parents created works of art to display in the classroom!

# Community Action Partnership for Madison County

## Kinship Care & Mentoring Program



Participants from CAP Madison's Mentoring Program became pen-pals during the shutdown. They sent notes, drawings, recipes, and activity ideas through the mail to keep each other engaged, informed, and motivated.

CAP Madison's Kinship Care Coordinator made this scavenger hunt for her families. She even delivered families their own personal "picnics" this year since they couldn't get together for their annual in-person picnic due to social distancing mandates.





# Mohawk Valley Community

## Action Agency

### Feeding the Community & Keeping in Touch

This year, MVCAA wasn't able to help families in their normal style of accepting visitors, visiting homes, social events etc. Instead, they hosted three drive-thru events in three counties they serve. They were able to see familiar faces, give out food and household essentials, hand out toys for kids, and partner with various community organizations such as CareNet and FirstSource. Over 8,000 pounds of food was distributed to more than 500 families in need.



Grandparents who were unable to be in the classroom due to COVID-19 restrictions stayed in touch with their students by writing and sending drawings to them. Keeping in touch was crucial for both parties to stay positive and engaged during difficult times.



# Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.

## Fighting Food & Clothing Insecurity in the Community



Staff stayed busy preparing and providing meals and food boxes for their community. They partnered with their local fire department to distribute the food boxes to families in need.

# Albany Community Action Partnership

## Providing Supplies for the Community and Adapting Services

In order to better serve families in Albany, Albany CAP's Early Childhood Education team developed a virtual Early Childhood Education program for families who preferred to have their children stay at home during COVID-19. The enrolled children were provided with weekly materials at home to work on while enjoying and following the online program.



As the effects of the pandemic continued to hurt under-served families the hardest, ACAP's Community & Careers staff are put together COVID-19 supply bags for customers. The bags were filled with supplies families needed but were not always available at the Food pantry: shampoo, soap, household cleaning products, and toiletry items.

# ACCORD Corporation

## Feeding the Community



ACCORD staff, volunteers, and community partners all chipped in to host food distribution events for individuals who are most in need in the community.

# Community Action Planning Council for Jefferson County, Inc.

## Taking Care of the Whole Community



Staff at CAPC of Jefferson County hearts dance when they receive feedback from people they serve. They always maintain that it is an honor to serve those in need!

781 Families were provided with nutritious milk thanks to a partnership with Dairy Farmers of America. The Watertown City School District contributed daily through our COVID-19 Children's meal program by delivering meals in the district. Thank you for being a wonderful example of Community Action Angels!



# Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.

## Establishing Partnerships to Respond to Community Needs

Congressman Antonio Delgado visited Otsego's homeless shelter in October. Pictured from left to right: Monique Beldenagro (housing advocate), Will Rivera (Crisis Intervention Director), Dan Maskin (CEO), the Congressman, Melinda Murdock (board Vice President) and Toya Lane-Bowdin (Shelter Supervisor)



Crisis Intervention Director, Will Rivera, received a donation from the Sidney Federal Credit Union to honor Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



# Schoharie County Community

## Action Program, Inc. Adapting Services, Supplying Resources, & Connecting with Community Partners



Schoharie County Community Action Program staff was hard at work responding to the needs of families and individuals in their communities:

1. Staff stockpiled donated items to be distributed to families in need.
2. Backpacks were "stuffed" with back to school supplies for the children in the community.
3. The Highway Superintendent Association generously made a donation to support the outreach efforts in the community.
4. Schoharie County Community Action Program's Employment Training Center was safely setup and students practiced proper social distancing while in class.

# Community Action Programs

## Cayuga/Seneca (CAP)

### Responding to the Community's Needs

CAP was a critical lifeline to families in need. They quickly adapted to meet ever-changing health and safety guidelines to provide services without disruption, from meeting immediate needs of food, personal care items, diapers, formula to finding a way to deliver wraparound supports to help those impacted by COVID-19 in Cayuga and Seneca Counties.



CAP increased collaboration with their partners and neighbors in the community. The spirit of Community Action was undeniable as everyone in the community stepped-up and donated hard to find items, masks, PPE, food, money, and their time to help those who needed it the most.

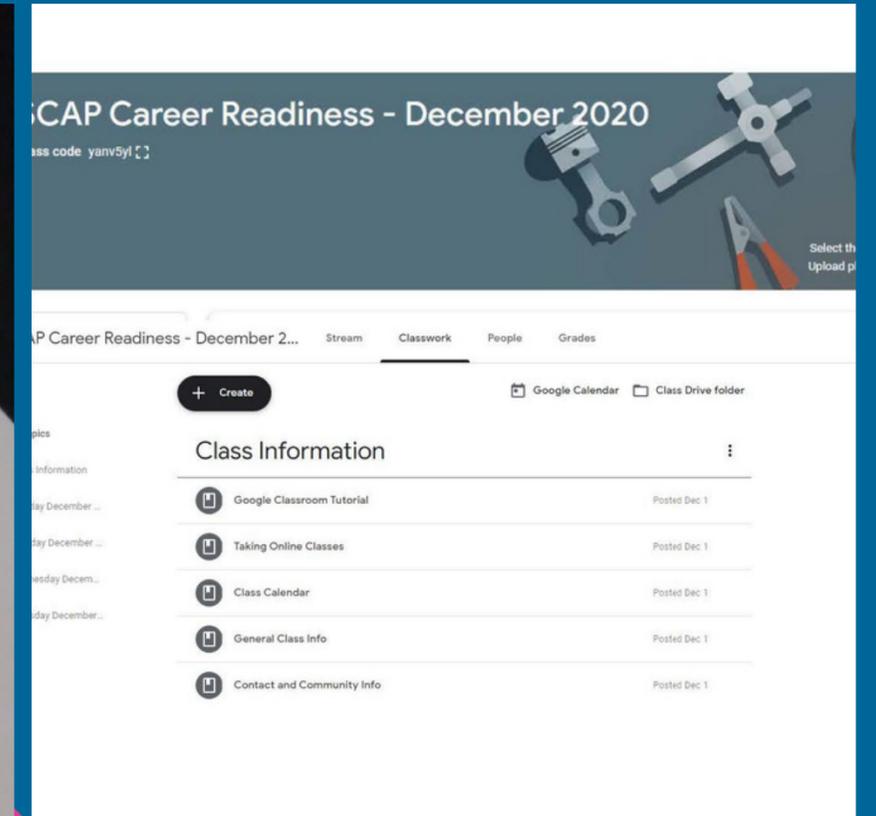
# Schenectady Community

## Action Program

### Keeping the Community Served

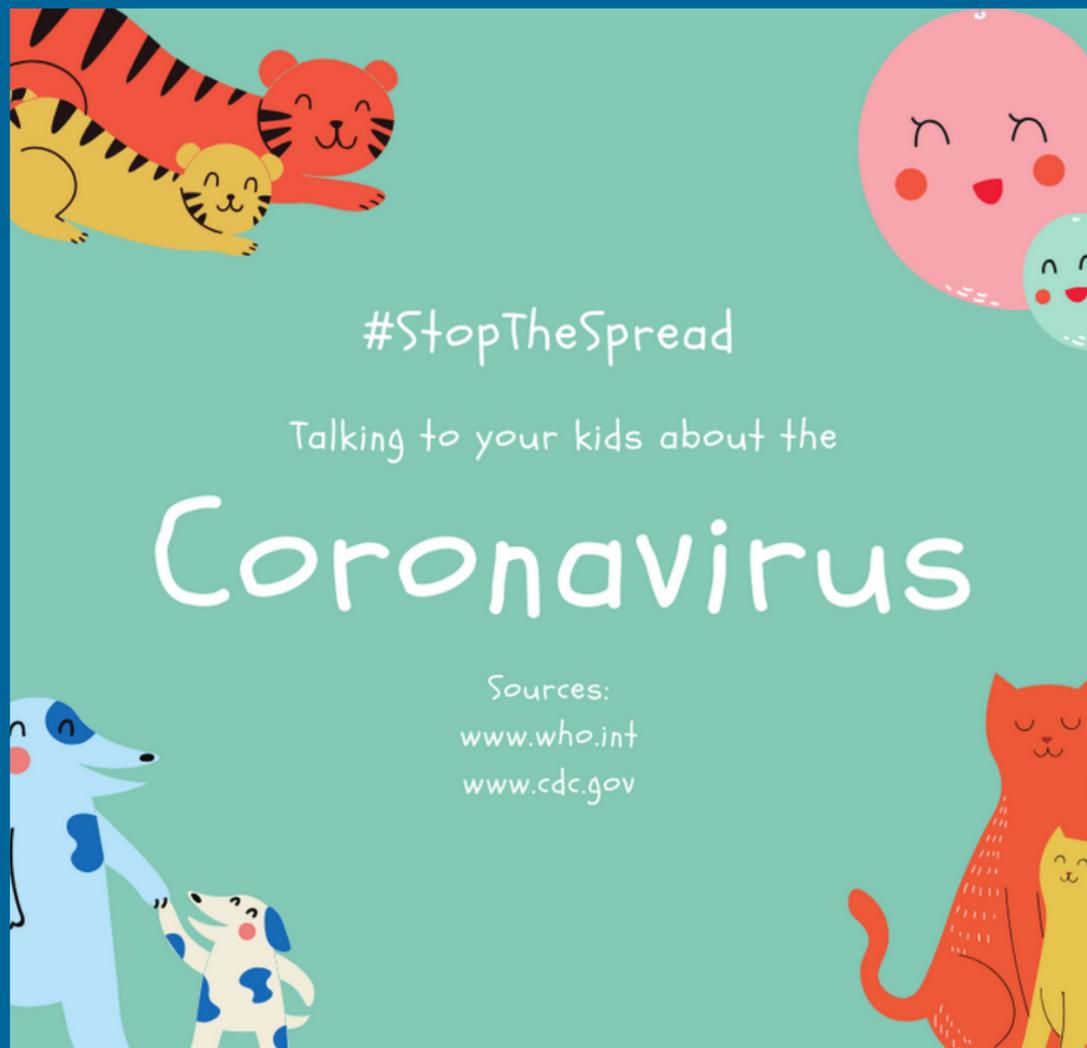
When the virus hit, SCAP adapted their service strategies in order to keep serving their customers. Employment Services moved their Career Readiness class to online when holding in-person classes was impossible, and also implemented a laptop loaner program to increase the accessibility to the class. Staff also worked with the Schenectady City Court system to refer all pending eviction cases to SCAP.

SCAP even worked to mediate between landlords and tenants, and resolved disputes before they went to court. SCAP also utilized Art Therapy to help their customers who suffered through the traumatic times of the pandemic. Since March, SCAP has served over 6,500 customers!



# Chautauqua Opportunities

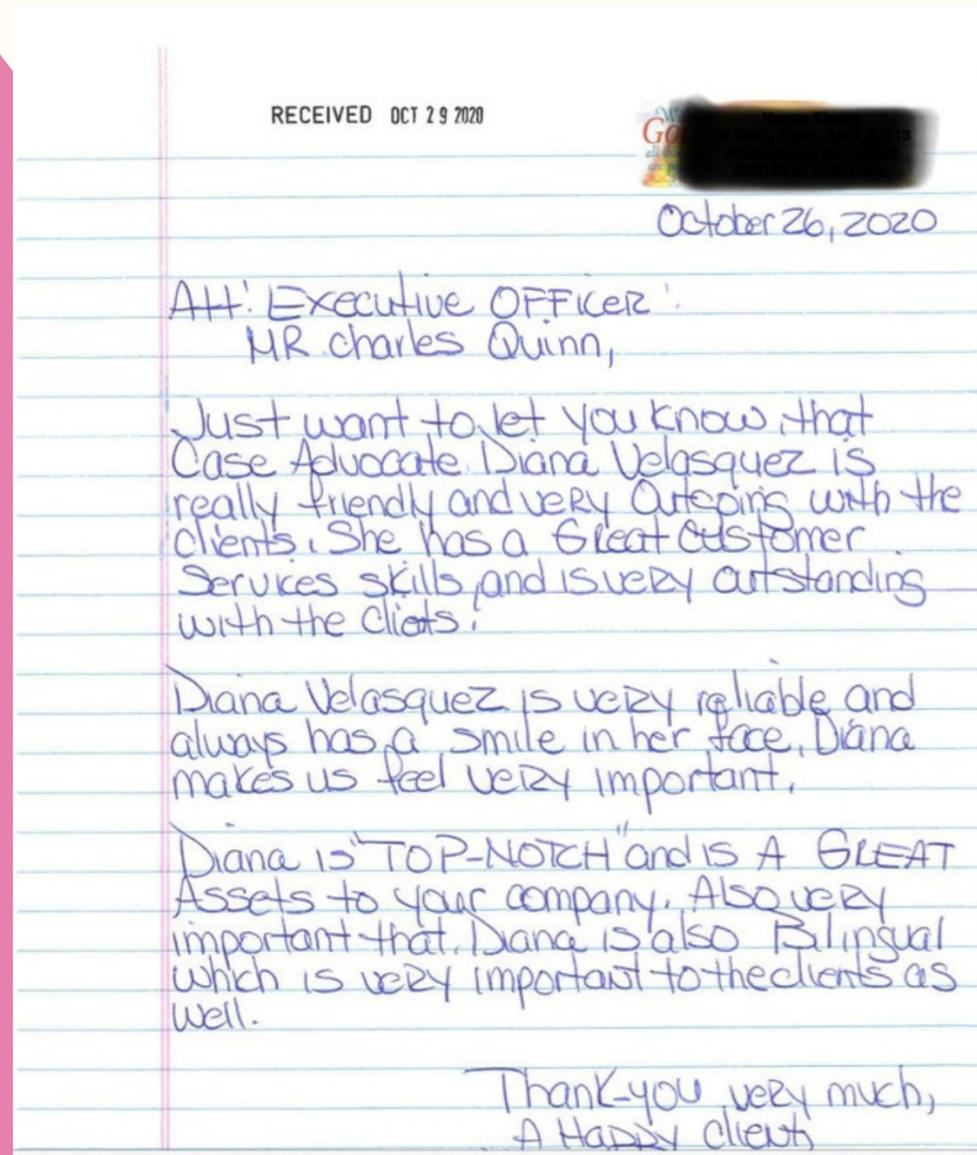
## Embracing Technology and Adapting Service Strategies



Chautauqua Opportunities showed a remarkable ability to adapt and remained resilient during the pandemic by finding new ways to support families and staff, including increasing the use of new technologies and adapting service strategies to meet the changing needs of the community.

# RECAP

## Fighting Food Insecurity



Clients wrote appreciation letters to staff as part of RECAP's partnership with Office for the Aging to cook and deliver food to seniors throughout the county.

As RECAP worked to provide meals and supplies to community members, Senator James Skoufis awarded RECAP the Senate's Commendation Award for their work throughout the pandemic; most notably, co-founding the Newburgh Mutual Aid Group, and getting 400,000 pounds of produce and healthy food to families in need.



**jameskoufis** I was honored to present Melanie Collins and Michele McKeon with the Senate's Commendation Award for their work throughout the pandemic co-founding the Newburgh Mutual Aid group, getting 400,000 pounds (and counting) of produce and healthy food to families in need.

Make no mistake - these two women are always behind the scenes helping on a number of initiatives in Newburgh, and the Newburgh Mutual Aid group is just one example of the work they constantly do to empower the lives of the people who live here. I'm honored to know and work with them both and look forward to continuing



PEACE took to social media to spread information on how to properly social distance and follow COVID-19 guidelines to keep everyone safe.



PEACE, Inc.  
Published by Hootsuite · October 25 at 6:00 AM ·

Enjoy the weekend and remember to continue to follow CDC guidelines at all times! Please stay safe!

**SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**  
[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

- Wear a cloth face covering in public spaces
- Stay at least 6 feet from other people
- Frequently wash your hands

PEACE delivered meals and participated in outdoor activities, all while remaining socially distanced. They worked to provide fun activities for children, and operated a clothing closet for individuals experiencing clothing insecurity.

# PEACE, Inc.

## Empowering People to Thrive



# Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.

## Onward and Upward

Since March, Economic Opportunity Program (EOP), addressed food and housing insecurities and the childcare needs of the individuals and families in their community. The work denoted in the Community Action Month postcard displays the spirit and magnitude of all of the services provided throughout all of the Community Action network. Onward and Upward!



### Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.

*Strengthening the fabric of our community*  
650 Baldwin Street - Elmira NY 14901

607-734-6174  
www.cseop.org

Celebrate National Community Action Month 2020!

*EOP has proudly served as your Community Action Agency since 1965. "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, and improves communities."*

As an "essential business" during the COVID-19 Pandemic, EOP is providing:

- ♦ basic necessities to economically disadvantaged populations
- ♦ childcare services
- ♦ food services, including the CFJP Bistro (take out/delivery), and more than 350 meals served daily at curbside and delivered to homes.

#### #EOPEssential

We are here for you.  
Yesterday - today - tomorrow.

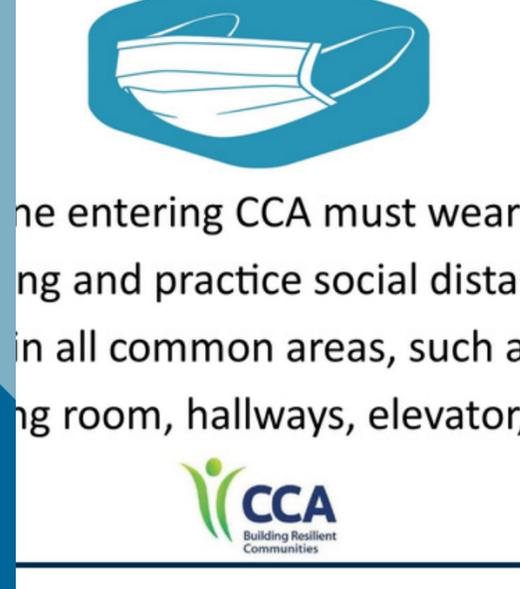
*We thank you for your continued support.*

 @EconomicOpportunityProgram  
or call us for more details.

# Connecting Communities in Action (CCA)

## Keeping the Community Informed

CCA created and posted flyers and information to social media to notify the community of safe practices and changes to regular services. CCA's Lighthouse Community Kitchen operated five days per week and served as a cafeteria for those who needed a place to find a warm meal. They initially had to close for a short time to adapt their services to meet all COVID-19 mandates, but reopened in a modified version of takeout only meals twice per week.



**COMMUNITY**  
Cattaraugus Community Action  
25 Jefferson Street  
Salamanca, NY 14779  
(716) 945-1041

In order to protect the safety of staff and clients, please be asked:

1. Have you traveled outside of the US within the last 14 days?
2. Have you had contact with any Persons Under Investigation (PUI) in the last 14 days or with anyone with known COVID-19?
3. Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath)?
  - If yes to 1 or 2, the individual will be directed immediately to a designated area.
  - If yes to 3, customers are advised to remain at home.

**Take Steps to Protect Yourself**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water after coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, etc.
- If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (in a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare facility.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and have symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider or the Health Department immediately.

The guidelines from the CDC to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus state that people should maintain social distance of at least 6-feet, wash their hands

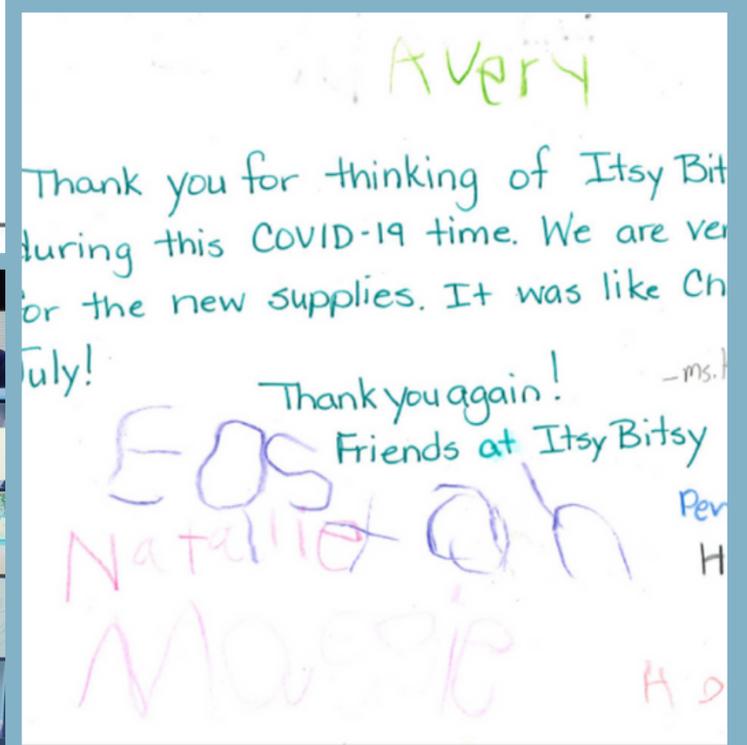
# Pro Action of Steuben and Yates

## Here for the Whole Community



Pro Action's Child Care Aware program offered full services through remote and in-office options. 51 legally exempt providers served 93 childcare programs!

Pro Action safely continued services for their communities during the pandemic. They enrolled 154 youth into their re-imagined Summer Learning program, adapted services to virtually assist adults with employment and training, supported families with safe and socially distanced home visiting, and weatherized 68 homes!



In order to meet the increasing needs of community residents, CAGC increased its capacity to provide services. They used grant dollars outside of Weatherization and with the help of their WX Director and crew, along with maintenance men, renovated their lobby to allow for safe social distancing. In addition, a storage shed was built to allow for the much needed expansion of their food pantry.



# Community Action of Greene County

## Building to Meet the Increasing Needs in the Community



Steve Hartman, of CBS News, is a Greene County resident, and has befriended Community Action of Greene County. In April, he recorded a video for our social media in order to bring attention to the work that we do, and increase donations in order for us to meet the needs of Greene County residents.

# Lewis County Opportunities

## Adapting to Serve a Variety of Needs

The Safer Smarter Kids program is an abuse prevention education curriculum designed for Pre K - middle school students. The education program uses developmentally appropriate information to arm children with the tools and language to protect themselves from sexual and physical abuse.



Lewis County Opportunities opened a new location to improve community access to various services. The Neighborhood Center was opened in Lowville, NY.

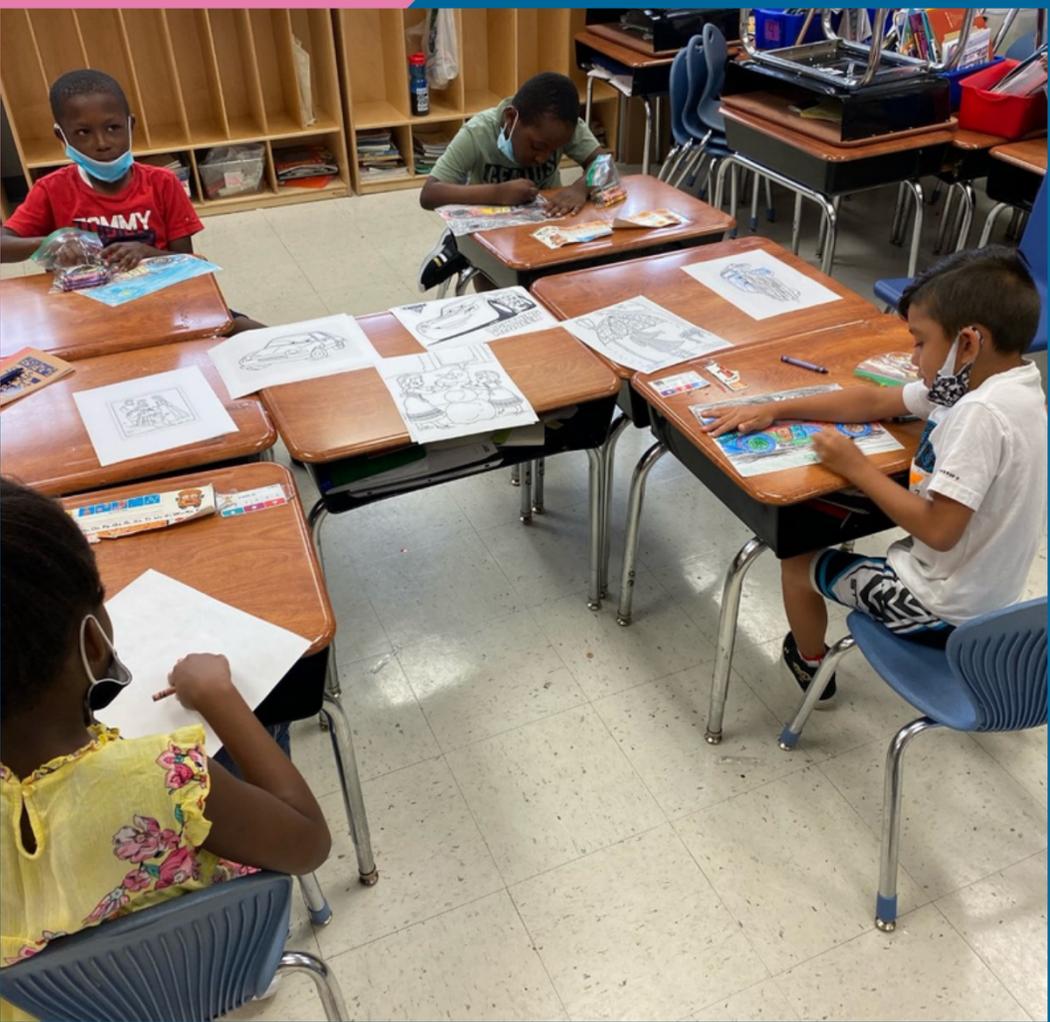
Lewis County Opportunities provided front door delivery of food packages to people in need; especially consumers with transportation barriers and those who were quarantined. In addition, numerous mobile dairy days were held in key locations throughout the county.



# NYC Department of Youth & Community Development Remaining Resilient for New York City

Despite COVID-19 and the City's worst economic crisis in 45 years, the NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) and their network of funded providers remained agile, responsive and resilient to meet the needs of New Yorkers. DYCD has helped distribute over 2 million PPE items secured by the mayor's office, and Beacon, Cornerstone, and COMPASS programs became lifelines by providing food to families in need.

DYCD continued to support the City's Test and Trace efforts, and worked with community-based organizations to promote opportunities for young people and adults. Initiatives have centered on the 2020 Census, voter registration, virtual youth town halls, and "Barbershop Talks" addressing everything from healthy relationships, masculinity for young men, and housing.



# Community Action of Orleans & Genesee Partnering to Feed the Community and Keep People Safe



The Eastern Orleans Community Center partners with several local agencies to fight poverty and hunger on the eastern end of the county. These include FEMA Pro, St. Vincent de Paul from Rochester, Food Link and The Salvation Army.

National Honor Society students from Holley High School volunteered to put boxes together last week at the Eastern Orleans Community Center in Holley. The boxes were packed with food for Thanksgiving dinner for families in the Holley area.

Annette Finch, director of emergency services at Community Action, praised the cooperation from local organizations and people, such as the National Honor Society members at Holley High School. Last week they came to the center to fold boxes and help give out 60 Thanksgiving food boxes.

"We do it every year," said high school senior Julia Buck.

Senior Kasey DeF rank said she likes to do it to help the community.

Rod Dietman, local treasurer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, said they have been involved for 42 years. They had always done some drive at Thanksgiving at their church, but with change in the laws, they now partner with the Community Center to provide Thanksgiving dinner to needy families.

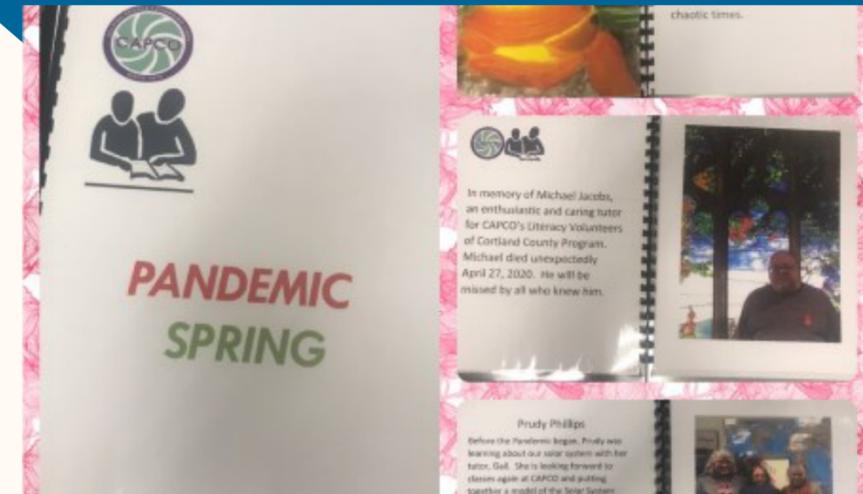
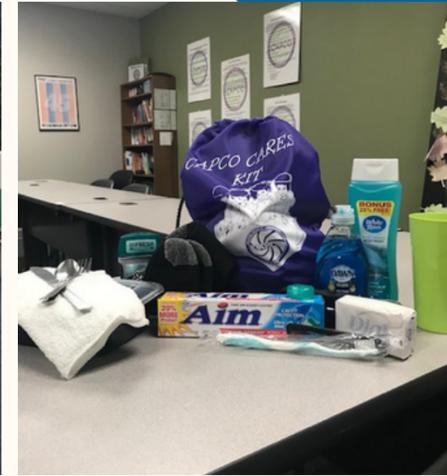
"Through donations to our society, we are able to purchase turkeys, milk and bread to distribute to the families," he said. "We utilize the Honor Society to tie it in with the community."

Local business advertisements including: COMPLETE Flooring, KUSTOM KREATIONS, AUTO CENTER, Lake Plains Eye Center, Schwab's Farm Market, Chap's PIZZA DINER, and E&E.

Community Action of Orleans & Genesee established a partnership with contact tracers to deliver food and personal protective equipment to individuals who were isolated due to the pandemic. Staff held food distribution events to provide nutritious meals for families in need. To assist families during the holidays, Community Action of Orleans & Genesee gathered toys and presents to donate to families who were having trouble securing presents for their families this year.

# Cortland County Community Action Program (CAPCO)

## Responding to Concerns in the Community



Although times were challenging, CAPCO remained connected and engaged with their customers. Students from their HSE program created a shared book, and CAPCO staff demonstrated their support even though they could not meet in-person.

CAPCO responded to the needs in their community and provided individuals and families with food, personal care items, PPE, books, diapers, school supplies, clothing, and more.

# New York State Community Action CARES



## Housing Services:

- 2,159** Individuals will receive Emergency Rental & Mortgage Assistance
- 1,722** Households will receive utility arrears payments
- 1,100** Households will maintain safe and affordable housing for 90 days
- 1,414** Households will avoid eviction

## Education Services:

- 5,950** Children in grades K-12 will receive support services
- 900** Families will receive school supplies
- 4,415** children and youth will demonstrate improved positive approaches toward learning, including improved attention skills as a result of CAA
- 408** Individuals will obtain a recognized credential, certificate, or degree relating to the achievement of educational or vocational skills



## Health Services:

- 1,765** Individuals will receive mental health counseling
- 3,385** Individuals will demonstrate improved physical health and well-being
- 3,300** Individuals will report a better sense of food security
- 156,925** Families will receive prepared meals or boxes of food

## Employment Services:

- 1,602** Individuals will receive skills training such as: vocational, self-employment skills, and job readiness
- 4,895** Individuals will receive job search assistance such as: coaching, resume building, and job placement & referrals
- 679** Unemployed adults will obtain employment (a living wage)
- 394** Individuals at risk of losing employment will maintain their employment as a result of CAA interventions



## Financial Services:

- 2,500** Individuals will receive VITA, EITC, or other tax preparation program assistance
- 1,075** Individuals will achieve and maintain capacity to meet basic needs for 90 days
- 800** Individuals will increase their savings
- 400** Individuals will purchase a home