



St. Lawrence County  
Community Development

2017—2018

Annual Report



## *Board of Directors*

Dee Burlingame	Joseph Finnegan	Fancy McBride
Deborah Chase-Lauther	Regina Fisher	Sohaib Obeid
Ryan Coleman	Dana LaCoss	Natalie Spilman
Nicole Conant	Christina Martin	Anna Sommer
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## *Executive Director*

Norma S. Cary/Felicia Dumas

## *Fiscal Officer*

David H. Fenton

## *Program Directors*

Barb Adams	Head Start
Justine Lechner	Housing Choice Voucher
Jerry Snell	Weatherization

## *Neighborhood Center Directors*

Mia Benjamin	Canton
Sandra Huckle	Colton/Pierrepoint/Parishville
Angela Ferrick	Gouverneur
Emily LaShomb	Massena
Nicole Sharpe	Ogdensburg
Kristal Hayes	Potsdam

*Executive Director* - This year like most others brought challenges to the agency, programs and staff.

Weatherization finished their 2017 contract and moved into the 2018 contract at a much lower level of funding. We have planned to utilize the Shared Work Program through the Department of Labor. We have, however, received information that we will be receiving some additional funding. NYSHCR is saying there will be another amendment that will bring us to approximately last year's funding level but we have not heard anything definitive as of this writing. The EmPower NY program has given us an increase in the number of referrals that we are receiving to perform energy saving services. NYSERDA seems to be looking at the program a little differently. We did receive DANC funds to do rehabilitation work on homes in the county again. We completed one contract and are moving into the next two year contract.

Housing Choice Voucher Program continues to assist families with their rent and inspect the homes for safety issues. We had the number of vouchers decreased to 689 last year. We have not reached that level since they allow us to continue with the project based vouchers as well as continue to accept "ports" of families moving into the area. The Family Self-Sufficiency Program has been stable with around 35 families on the program working toward goals which will lead to self-sufficiency. The Homeownership Program has done well over the past year with four families purchasing their own homes and three new families beginning the process. We are continuing to recruit families within HCVP for this program.

Head Start has had its share of challenges. There have been some facility issues and keeping qualified staff is an on-going challenge. Head Start expects programs to hire certified teachers but the grant has not increased to make Head Start wages competitive with school districts. We have difficulty in keeping bus drivers for the same reason. We have had a good amount of turnover in all positions – again people looking for higher wages. This year we have had a problem with recruiting families for next year's program. We are brainstorming ways to increase our enrollment.

Neighborhood Centers continue as always in providing some of the basic needs for families. Many of the families who utilize the centers are employed but many times they are underemployed. Families struggle to meet their needs and obligations. The Centers have provided a variety of workshops this year. All offer a budgeting workshop as well as healthy nutrition/safety workshops. Other trainings are offered according to the interest/need of those utilizing the centers. Potsdam Center offered the VITA program again this tax season with impressive results. They did 65 returns. The first year they did 17 and last year they did 35. There was over \$60,000 gained by families via their returns. Food Sense was once again offered in Potsdam and Canton.

After 30 years at CDP – 18 of those as Executive Director – I have decided to retire. It was a challenge to find someone whom the search committee felt would best meet the needs of the agency. We are happy to report that we selected a new Executive Director who is a good match with the needs of the agency. I feel we have been fortunate to have time together to make the transition. The new Executive Director is Felicia Dumas. Felicia comes to us from the Seaway Valley Prevention Council. I want to thank our staff, board members and volunteers for the support you have given to the agency and me over the years. As they say, "all good things must come to an end." I am grateful for my time at CDP and now look forward to this next chapter in my life. Thank you to everyone.

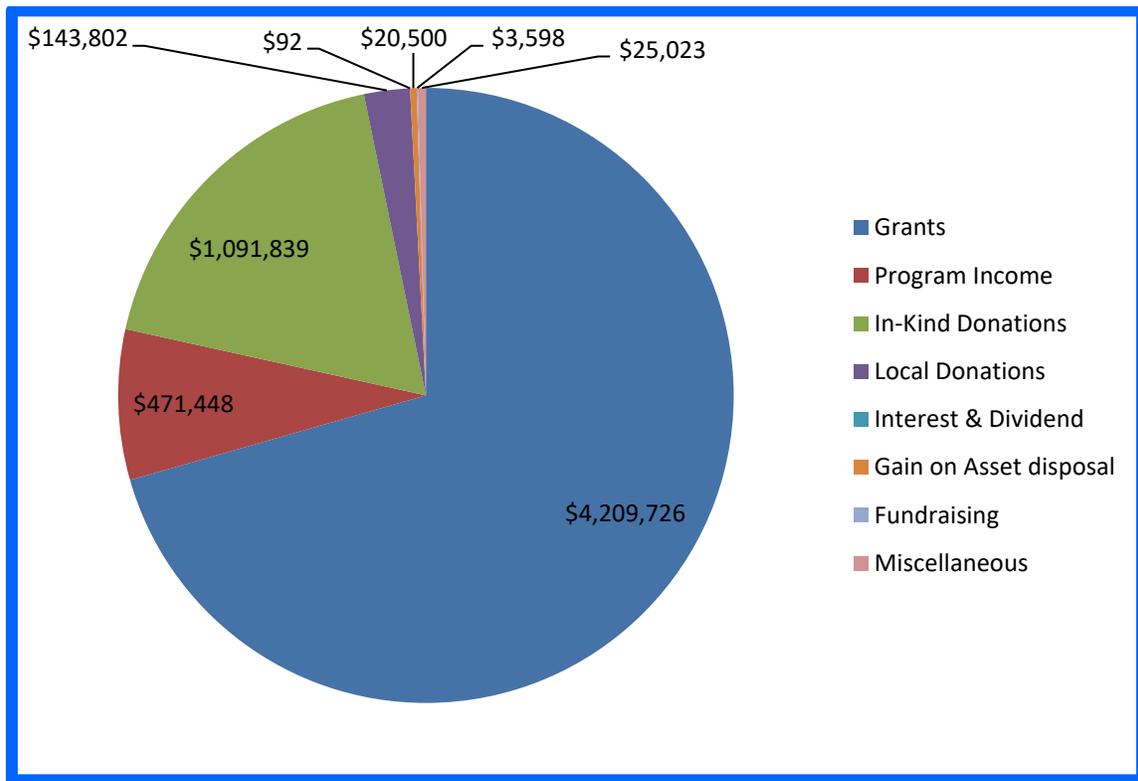
*Finance - Audit* – The audit was conducted by the EFRP Group and presented to the board of directors on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. It was an unmodified opinion, and the audit went quite smoothly.

**Minimum Wage** - Increases in the minimum wage affected all programs to some extent. An additional large minimum wage increase in 2018 will continue to move personnel costs in an upward direction.

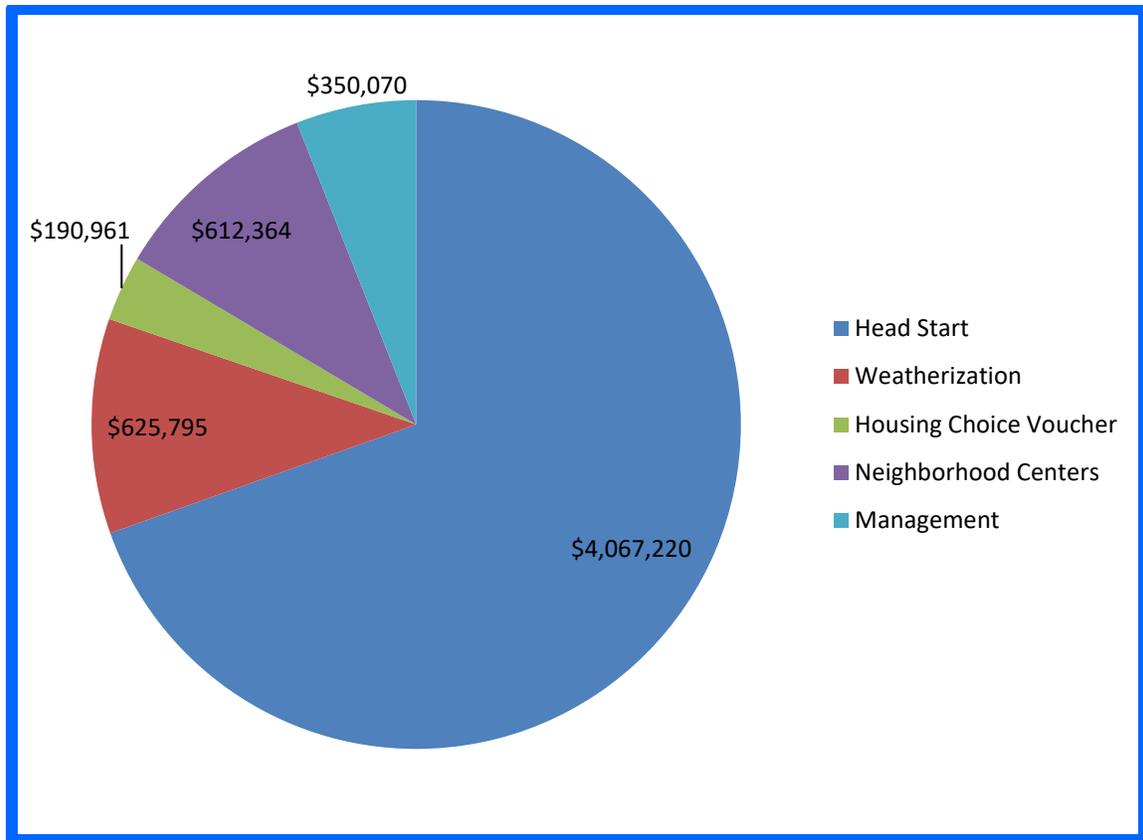
All programs performed well in 2017. Head Start experienced growth due to the extended duration program, and extended student attendance hours.

The Finance Office hopes to accomplish a software upgrade to improve functionality. None of the current Finance employees have any formal training on our software. This is something we hope to include in any software enhancement.

### *CDP Revenue 2017*



### *CDP Program Expense*



*Head Start* - provides a comprehensive school readiness program for 351 children and their families in St. Lawrence County. To improve school readiness, a wide range of services are provided that support the goals of children and families, resulting in improved outcomes. These

services include health (including access to mental health services), dental and nutrition, social services and family development as well as family engagement opportunities and supports for children with disabilities (and their families). These are provided through a wide range of services that lay the groundwork for children's growth and development as well as positive family links. In collaboration with school districts, Public Health, Social Services, BOCES, and many other agencies within the county, the needs of children and families are met throughout the year.

Head Start continues to operate 14 classrooms in eight (8) center locations around the county, serving 231 both 3 and 4 year old children and their families. All of our centers operate five days a week. We received funding to operate 4 classrooms in full day programming beginning in September of 2017. To comply with the new Head Start Performance Standards, we added an additional two classrooms as full day programming in September of 2017. The remaining 8 classrooms continue to operate part day programs. At our Canton site we offer a part day morning and a part day afternoon classroom to families, allowing families to take advantage of UPK.

All of our centers use the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide breakfast and/or lunch to the children following nutritional guidelines set forth by CACFP. CACFP is funded by the New York State Department of Health; St. Lawrence County CDP Head Start is reimbursed for providing nutritious and healthy meals to center based children. For full day programming, snack has been added to the reimbursement received from CACFP. Additionally we have begun to see reimbursement from CACFP for snacks used for Home Based group socialization experiences.

In St. Lawrence County Head Start continues to provide home based services to 120 children and their families in their homes. This option provides the same quality services as provided in center based options in school readiness to children and the families and uses the home as the learning environment. Trained Home Based Visitors visit families weekly for 90 minutes and provide opportunities that enhance skills the child has and nurtures budding age appropriate development. Additionally, a minimum of twice monthly socialization experiences are conducted for all enrolled home based children and their parents. These experiences are modeled after a typical classroom day at centers.

As required by Performance Standards, a research based curriculum, Creative Curriculum, is used by the program to promote school readiness. This curriculum aligns with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework as well as the NYS Pre-K Learning standards. Language, cognitive development, social emotional, physical, pre-reading and math are promoted through the use of Creative Curriculum. Staff received training in the Curriculum in January of 2018. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire for Social Emotional continues to be completed by families to help Head Start determine social emotional development. Children are assessed three times yearly in collaboration with parents; goals are established for individual growth as well as for the group. These assessments are tracked through Teaching Strategies Gold. When one thinks of this assessment, the colors of the rainbow help to visualize where children are and where they are headed on the continuum. The data is gathered and analyzed for all children, regardless of when they entered the program. The results are analyzed by coordinators and shared with individual teaching teams and Home Based Visitors. This helps determine not only goals for individual children and classrooms, but professional development for staff, both as a group and on a particularized basis. This year exit data shows a need for more social emotional development across both age groups served. When looking at the reasons for this, it is evident that the use of technology has impacted this domain.

The analysis of the spring data for the 2016-2017 program year for Home Based indicates Physical and Cognitive Domains are areas of strength. The Domains: Social Emotional, Language, Literacy and Mathematics continue to be targets for the county in the spring assessment period. Within the target areas, Objective #13 - Uses classification skills, #17 - Demonstrates knowledge of print and it uses and #18 - Comprehends and responds to books and other texts are strengths. The data indicated consistent growth across all of the objective areas; spring growth being the largest in many areas. The data will be broken down by individual Home Based Visitors and used to shape the curriculum, set individual child goals and identify professional development needs

The analysis of the spring data, for Center, in the current program year indicates that all domains continue to be targets for the county in the spring assessment period. Within the target areas, Objective #2 - Establishes and sustains positive relationships, #14 - Uses symbols and images to represent something not present and #18 - Comprehends and responds to books and other texts are strengths. The data indicated consistent growth across all of the objective areas; spring growth being the largest in many areas. The data will be broken down by individual Home Based Visitors and used to shape the curriculum, set individual child goals and identify professional development needs.

Science and Technology, Social Studies and The Arts are strengths countywide in both Home Based and Center.

Transitioning involves children, families, staff and community in meeting the needs of all. For families transition begins at recruitment where they learn about the programs available to them and their child. Once a family and child are accepted into the program and a rapport is built, an organized series of activities takes place that helps meet the needs of the children and families. This reduces stress for everyone involved and begins to build on the positive associations between staff, children, families and schools. This includes transitions from home to Head Start as well as transitions for children with special needs. Head Start children participate with children in UPK and kindergarten in joint activities. Throughout the year, families are given information about available resources. Toward the end of the program year, children and families begin the transition from Head Start to school (or their next placement). A collaborative approach is used by Head Start and school districts to begin a seamless transition to a child's next placement. With parent permission Head Start staff meets with school staff to exchange information about any needs of children who will enter school in the fall. Families are referred to community resources for summer activities which continue school readiness. Many activities occur throughout the program year which facilitates smooth transitions for all involved.

All of this is made possible by the involvement of parents at every level of the Head Start program. While engagement activities differ from location to location, there is one constant—parent volunteers make a difference. This current program year, parents have been involved not only in Governance activities, but have worked as paid substitute staff in classrooms and on buses, and volunteers in kitchens. Several center and home based areas have planned Family Fun Activities to occur in the evening so that all family members may take advantage. These activities have been well attended by families. Additionally families have been involved in field trips, reading to the children at circle times, workshops and emergency preparedness activities. In the 2016 -2017 program year there were 956 volunteers in the program. This is double the previous year's volunteers. This includes 511 volunteers who were current or former Head Start parents.

In August of 2017, the following Program Information Report (PIR) was submitted to our funding source:

351	-	<b>Funded Enrollment</b>
390	-	<b>Number of children served during the year</b>
190	-	<b>three year olds</b>
200	-	<b>four year olds</b>
118	-	<b>Total staff</b>
30	-	<b>current or former parents</b>
41	-	<b>Number of classroom staff</b>
15	-	<b>Teachers</b>
8	-	<b>with Master's degrees</b>
6	-	<b>with Baccalaureate degrees</b>
1	-	<b>with Associate degrees</b>
26	-	<b>Assistant Teachers/Classroom Aides</b>
2	-	<b>with Masters degrees</b>
1	-	<b>with Baccalaureate degrees</b>
4	-	<b>with Associate Degrees</b>
5	-	<b>with CDA</b>
2	-	<b>working towards a CDA</b>
2	-	<b>Teacher turnover</b>
384	-	<b>Children w/ongoing source of medical care</b>
296	-	<b>Children w/ongoing source of dental care</b>
80	-	<b>HS children with a disability</b>
368	-	<b>Families Served</b>
184	-	<b>Single Parent Families</b>
184	-	<b>Two parent Families</b>
25	-	<b>children being raised by someone other than Biological parents</b>
8	-	<b>Homeless Families Served</b>
9	-	<b>Foster children served</b>
186	-	<b>Number of males were engaged in various activities with with their child.</b>

**Head Start Centers**

Brasher Falls  
 Canton  
 Gouverneur  
 Massena  
 Norwood  
 Ogdensburg  
 Parishville

**Home Based Programs**

\*Brasher Falls            \*Potsdam  
 \*Canton  
 \*Gouverneur            \*surrounding areas  
 \*Hammond  
 \*Massena  
 \*Morristown  
 \*Norwood

Potsdam

\*Ogdensburg

**Administrative Staff at St. Lawrence County CDP, Inc -- Head Start**

Norma Cary	Executive Director CDP (retiring)
Felicia Dumas	Executive Director CDP (incoming)
Barbara Adams	Director – Head Start
Janet Allen	Parent Involvement Coordinator
Tona Bouchard	Training Coordinator
Alissa Collier	Education Coordinator
Brandi LaMay	Health/Disabilities Coordinator
Kelley Martin	Home Based/ERSEA Coordinator
Tammy LaPoint	Nutrition Coordinator
Teena Prentice	Staff Advisor
Terry Reilley	Transportation Coordinator
Peggy Gaumes	Administrative Assistant
Tammy Garno	Secretary

**2017 Financial Report  
Annual Budget**

<b>Federal Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,214,418</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,933,643</b>
<b>USDA Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 141,658</b>	<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>\$ 133,577</b>
<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>\$ 873,929</b>	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 269,753</b>
<b>Program Income</b>	<b>\$ 5,792</b>		

*Housing Choice Voucher Program* - St. Lawrence County Community Development Program’s (CDP) Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) currently provides rental assistance to 735 low-income, disabled and elderly families throughout St. Lawrence County. In 2017, HCR reduced our allotted voucher number to 689 and requested that any surplus vouchers be reduced through attrition. We have since reduced our numbers per the request of HCR. The 46 vouchers issued through our Cambray Terrace Project will remain at full capacity. Our Home Ownership Program continues to grow thanks to our new Coordinator, Katelyn Autry-Agen. She has successfully enrolled four families in the past six months, and we look to gain an

additional three in the coming months. Family Self-Sufficiency saw a spike in participating families, with a total of 35 enrollees, 12 of which have an escrow balance. We will continue to serve those participating families despite the resignation of our FSS Coordinator in March.

It was announced that our SEMAP audit will no longer be conducted by our designated State Representative. HCR will still be scoring our program with the use of the same indicators; however, an independent auditor will be conducting the audit. The 2017 SEMAP audit is scheduled to take place during the third week of August. Moving forward, we will be able to better prepare for SEMAP with the implementation of Quality Control Management Systems. QCMS is a quality control software program that was introduced in early 2018 for the purpose of monitoring new admissions, interims, moves and annual reexaminations. Training has been completed and special permissions have been assigned, but the live date is still pending due to technical difficulties. Despite the delay, we look forward to having an alternate means of assuring the accuracy and efficiency of the program. We are also excited to welcome a new Housing Representative, Tiffany Pray, who completed her Housing Specialist Certification in April. The Spring Regional's took place on May 9<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center.

*Weatherization* - was able to complete 83 homes with our funding allocation for the 2017 contract. Several of these homes received additional work through a rehabilitation grant.

We have been working closely with EMPOWER NY and have completed referral projects. The referrals continue at a steady pace.

Our MOU with St. Lawrence County Housing Council produced several audits and additional leverage funds. Our combined leverage funds for the 2017 contract totaled \$385,950.

The HEAP Cooling Initiative Program began May 1, 2018 and will continue until all funds have been expended. We will also continue to bid on No Heat Emergencies which are referred by the HEAP Department.

We were awarded \$265,000 through DANC (Development Authority of the North County) to rehab homes with code violations for eligible homes in St. Lawrence County.

Our waiting list for Weatherization remains at a 3 to 5 year wait.

Congratulations to Norma on her retirement!!

*Canton Neighborhood Center* - Once again we experienced many changes this past year. The Center had its Summer Food Program where families with children were able to receive an extra package of food for the months of June, July, and August. They also were able to

have the Back-To-School Program that gave families backpacks filled with school supplies as well as laundry detergent and some personal care items. In September, the center welcomed a new director who plans on staying with the center.

For Thanksgiving this year, the center bought 20 gift cards for families to buy turkeys and a pie. All of the families that received the gift cards also received a pre-packaged food basket put together and donated from Save-A-Lot in Canton.

For Christmas, the Center bought 10 hams and received 10 turkey vouchers from Fidelis. All of the families that received the gift cards and hams also received a pre-packaged food basket put together and donated from Save-A-Lot in Canton.

Throughout the year, the Neighborhood Center has had several dedicated volunteers who have helped reorganize and improve the look and feel of the Center. The feedback from the community has been uplifting and positive. Through funds that were donated to CDP, the Canton Center was able to distribute coats, boots, and ski pants to low-income families.

The Neighborhood Center has had many things to be grateful for this year. We received all kinds of donations for our thrift store and food pantry as well as monetary donation. This year, we have received generous donations from the Stewart's Holiday Match Program, Northern New York Community Foundation, St. Lawrence Board of Realtors, Lights on The River Program, Salvation Army and also some from our community members. We receive donations almost daily for our thrift store. These items include clothes, household goods, kitchen goods and personal care items.

The Center assisted 25 families through the Care & Share application process. Care & Share provides eligible households with \$200 that can be used towards either electric or heating source.

The Center is offering the Food Sense Program that provides families with the ability to purchase monthly food packages at a discounted rate. The representative for Fidelis Care comes the first Monday of the month and provides information on health insurance and the opportunity to sign up/recertify for health insurance. The Canton Director is also a voucher writer for Salvation Army which allows the Center the capability to further assist the community in times of need.

The Canton Neighborhood Center is very grateful for all of the opportunities it has had this year. We are looking forward to the future as well as new opportunities that may come our way.

*Colton, Parishville, Pierrepont Neighborhood Center* - The CPP Center was able to successfully achieve their goal planned out by the former director. The previous director set out with a goal to acknowledge and change the nutrition, education and isolation that hinders their community. During the month of August the development of the "Get Out and Get Going" initiative engaged several community members of all ages. This initiative encouraged community members to join the director in a weekly walk through the community, along with attending educational and nutritional workshops. The initiative was a huge success and by the end of the month members were able to cut their initial end time by 2-4 minutes.

The summer months also involved the launching of a Summer Food for Kids program. For the months of July and August the Centers were able to provide food packages for over 60 children between the three centers. This program is essential for low-income families to help lessen the financial strains that are experienced during the summer months with children eating meals at home all day.

The Center partnered with the Colton and Parishville school districts to provide a Backpack Program. This program provided 100 families with weekend food packages to provide healthy food packages that would supplement the families over the longer school breaks. The Center was also able to provide over 65 students with assorted school supplies.

This past year the Parishville Center engaged in their first ever Iron Chef Competition. The event was a huge success with 9 families participating. The contestants were able to create and execute food dishes. The food creations were then presented to the host that visited the Center to perform budgeting, nutrition, and educational workshops.

To end the year the Center offered a Holiday Food program to eligible low-income families. 77 families signed up for the program 67 families received a \$15 food certificate, money gift cards were given to the guardians of over 70 children to help with holiday gift expenses. Families that were not initially signed up before the closing date were offered turkey vouchers donated from Casella and Fidelis. Disabled or senior members of the community without children were offered \$15 Wal-Mart gift cards.

The Center has received several monetary donations from local organizations and community members that continue to show immense support for the Centers. Other resources that continue to support our goals of education by providing workshops such as budgeting and nutrition include SeaComm Credit Union, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and FoodBank of CNY.

In March, the CPP Center transitioned to a new Director. The new Director is community orientated and is looking forward to continuing the relationships and goals the Centers have created in the past few years.

*Gouverneur Neighborhood Center* - This year was a busy year for the Gouverneur Neighborhood Center. The Director of the last five years, Peggy Cronk, decided it was time to enjoy her retirement. The Center welcomed Angela Ferrick as its new Director. The Center still has many long term volunteers that made the transition much easier for the Director and the community.

The winter in the North Country started early and stayed late. Thankfully, we had programs like HEAP and Care and Share to help keep the community warm and costs down. We also offered a program for free winter coats, snow pants, gloves and hats. We were also able to have a Christmas program to help our families provide for their children.

We also have a food pantry at the Center. We have roughly 100 households take advantage of our food pantry each month. We are provided with food primarily through the FoodBank of NY which has grant programs that we take advantage of. We also have food drives conducted by the Methodist Church of Gouverneur, Gouverneur Central School, Lights on the River, and the Gouverneur Prison, just to name a few. We are also offered grants from non-profit organizations like North Country Community Foundation. We are thankful to be supported by their many efforts.

At the Center we also offer education. We have various workshops throughout the year. We educate the community on nutrition and healthy living. We also offer parenting and financial planning classes. There is also a computer at the Center equipped with Wi-fi to help our community members with job searching and resume writing.

Lastly, we offer a thrift shop. We have clothing, shoes, household items and toys. All our merchandise is in good condition at minimal prices to help the thrifty shopper.

The Gouverneur Neighborhood Center is a place that encourages and assists families every day in hopes of making each day the best it can be.

*Massena Neighborhood Center* - We had another successful year serving the needs of the community via multiple venues such as food pantry, heating fuel assistance, utilities assistance, shelter, disasters, educational needs, employment needs, gas cards, clothing etc.

The daily operations of the Center are provided by a committed staff of volunteers dedicated to treating all community members with dignity and respect. We ensure that each community member is received in a welcoming environment, and leaves feeling empowered.

MNC has written, requested and/or received many grants this year. Among them were: FoodBank of Central NY Grant for a line of credit for food, FoodBank Operations Support Grant for assistance with the Center's rent, FoodBank Mini Produce Grant for fruits and vegetables, Northern NY Community Foundation for food, and Stewart's Shops Holiday Match for children. Our agency provided United Way funds for utilities and shelter, FEMA for food.

One of our largest community programs is our annual Christmas Program. This past year we assisted 866 individuals for a total of 299 families. Of these families there were a total of 352 children and 116 seniors. This past year we initiated the Rx Lockbox Program, providing 21 households with a secure lockbox for prescription drugs within their residence. We are able to fund these programs through the generosity of the community and agency programs. The majority of our community donations are received through the special efforts and dedication of a separate group of volunteers – the “Fundraising Committee to Benefit Massena Neighborhood Center Food Pantry, Emergency Assistance Program and Christmas Holiday Program”. Without the dedication of these committee members, we would be unable to assist families at our current level.

MNC sponsors a variety of workshops each year: A budget workshop through SeaComm Federal Credit Union, child care workshop through St. Lawrence Child Care Council, Inc., a bundled Nutritional and Information workshop with Cornell Cooperative Extension's "Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables", and an identity theft workshop.

*Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center* - Looking back on the year there are several endeavors that the Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center has focused on. The Center began new partnerships with several community agencies. One new partnership is with the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross partnership offers community members the ability to become trained smoke alarm installers. The Director plans the installations, houses the smoke alarms provided by Red Cross, and submits documentation to Red Cross. This effort is to decrease the number of deaths by smoke/fire by at least 5% in 5 years.

The Center is grateful to have several supporting community partnerships. Monetary donations and grants that were received this past year came from partnerships with NNY Community Foundation, Stewarts Shops, FoodBank of Central NY, Lights on the River, Zonta Club, Amvets Ladies Auxiliary, MJK Properties, Derringer Company, ACCO Brands, TOPS Troop #0315, Riverview Correctional Facility, Board of Realtors, Salvation Army and several individual community members. The Center is also supported by multiple churches in the area that make monetary donations as well as food, personal care items, clothing, and gift donations.

For the summer months the Center offered their Summer Food program to school aged children. Over 135 children received an extra 3 day food package during the months of July and August. The Center also partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension to host a 4 week long "Eat Smart" workshop to help educate families on the benefits of eating healthy on a budget.

The Director has continued to work with families by utilizing the Family Development program offered through the Neighborhood Centers. The Family Development program works with families towards the mission of CDP. The Director worked one on one with over 10 families to regain their self-reliance and dignity, through education, guidance, and services.

The Center partnered again this year with the Salvation Army and Fidelis to provide a "Back to School" program. The program offered multiple school supplies to over 60 low-income families. This assistance relieved the financial burden that many families face every school year.

Throughout the year the Center continued to host a multitude of educational workshops that involve budgeting, nutrition, special education, and safety awareness.

The Center appreciates the collaborative efforts of Salvation Army and HeartShare through the winter months. Salvation Army's partnership allowed for all eligible low-income families to receive a Christmas Food Basket. The Center was able to complete the application process for over 30 families to receive \$200.00 towards their utility bills.

The Director continues to look for ways to improve the resources available for community members to assist them as they aspire towards self-sufficiency.

*Potsdam Neighborhood Center* - The year has flown by. We just wrapped up another heating season. We were able to assist twenty-two households in applying for a Care and Share grant of \$200. It was credited to either their electricity or fuel bills. That's \$4400 our clients didn't have before to use for other things or in addition to their own payment. April 17th marked the end of the tax season and our VITA program came to a close. We are happy and so proud to say that our numbers for this year have doubled again to 65 individuals or families that have taken advantage of this wonderful program. This year we were able to help these people get refunds totaling \$63,575. That is incredible for us. The IRS is pleased and willing to offer the program again with us next year. I cannot express adequately how proud I am of the program and the volunteers who made it all possible. We have a great group and I look forward to working with them all again next year.

Our Center has held presentations and/or workshops on things from budgeting to nutrition to early literacy. We are constantly looking for new ways to engage our clients and to get the community involved. Coming up we will be visited by Cornell Cooperative Extension weekly to help gauge the needs of our clients as they relate to food. This will help us to present material that is beneficial and more relevant to those we serve. The Center will be hosting another community dinner this spring. The date is yet to be determined. We are very pleased with the way it went last year. We received a very nice letter thanking us and letting us know it was very well received by those attending. We can't wait to get the details established for this year. Providing a meal to someone who may not otherwise have one that day warms our hearts and is a great experience for our volunteers. We have also been approached about hosting a Living with Chronic Illness six week presentation. This is something we are wholeheartedly open to and can't wait for it to begin. A large number of our clients are living with chronic conditions. This will be a very useful tool for them.

We have three programs beginning very soon, all overlapping to a degree. Summer food applications have been put out for interested clients. Our PB&J program will begin as soon as the summer recreation program kicks off at the Pine Street Arena and our school supply applications will go out very shortly to ensure enough time for parents to get them in, shopping to be done and donations to be collected. We are preparing to accept a donation the Postal Service collects twice annually to help area pantries. We cannot thank them enough. It is truly incredible the amount of food donated by the public and a huge undertaking on the part of the carriers. This donation comes at the perfect time as it will assist us with the summer food packages. Recently in coordination with the Potsdam Public Library and Cornell Cooperative Extension, we held an early literacy workshop. Melissa from Cornell Cooperative provided age appropriate recipes for children to make with their parents in an attempt to promote family time, literacy, and cooking all in one. Those who attended had a great time and are looking forward to future programs.

The Center invites the community to stop by, take a quick tour, ask questions, make suggestions or maybe even just volunteer for a few hours. Fresh eyes can sometimes make all the difference, and our families on the road to self-sufficiency deserve all the help they can get.

NSC/jms  
June 2018

## MISSION STATEMENT OF CDP

St. Lawrence County Community  
Development Program is committed to  
encourage and assist individuals and

families to attain self-reliance, dignity, and self-sufficiency through education, guidance, and services.

## VISION STATEMENT OF CDP

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program strives to be a community organization focused on delivering services that meet the changing needs of low-income families in St. Lawrence County and to empower them to participate more fully in their community.