

COMMUNITY ACTION

of Greene County, Inc.



2022 Annual Report



Creating Opportunities... Fighting Poverty... Changing Lives

Mission

Community Action of Greene County (CAGC) empowers disadvantaged individuals and families to grow and thrive through advocacy and person-centered services. CAGC promotes collaboration to strengthen the community.

We Value

At Community Action of Greene County, we value:

- Advocacy for individual and community change;
- Partnership with service recipients and other organizations;
- Stewardship for public and private resources;
- Accountability for our actions as mission-based advocates, partners, and stewards; and
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility as a model for the work we do

Made possible with grants received through the NYS Department of State, we contracted with the New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) to conduct a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (the report is on our website), utilizing input from our staff and board members, community partners, clients, and the general public. Utilizing the information gleaned from the Assessment, senior staff and board members then came together to develop a new Strategic Plan. The Plan identifies our new mission statement and core values, as listed above.

In 2022, housing and homelessness continued to be a major need for those coming to us for assistance. Apartments are either unlivable, unable to pass a basic habitability standards inspection, or are exorbitantly priced. We continue to work with local Social Services and other service providers to provide assistance to those either literally homeless, or at risk of eviction.

In addition to our STEHP Program (Solutions to End Homelessness Program), we, since COVID, have had several other significant grants to assist with housing needs, including ESG-CV and RSP funding. Despite these funds, due to rental prices being well over fair market rent, we are still unable to assist many seeking housing.

Different than in past winters, this year we experienced more individuals and families living in their cars, rather than giving up family pets or having to move out of county for shelter. We are currently in the process of exploring potential funding sources in order to secure funds to pay boarding fees to the Columbia Greene Humane Society in these instances.

This agency continues to be an active partner in the Columbia Greene Housing Coalition, the local HUD Continuum of Care. Since its inception almost twenty years ago, the Housing Coalition has brought together such stakeholders in the two counties as Departments of Social Services, the VA, Soldier On, Legal Aid Society of NENY, Mental Health Association of Columbia & Greene Counties, both Greene and Columbia Departments of Mental Health, and Twin County Recovery Services to discuss the needs of those affected by homelessness, and apply for funding to address those needs. Permanent Supportive Housing grant have been awarded to this agency, Columbia Opportunities, Mental Health Association and St. Catherine's Center for Children in the two counties. Rental or leasing assistance, as well as supportive services offered to program participants increase their likelihood of maintaining housing.

Food insecurity was also a major issue that presented for many Greene County residents in the past year, despite the additional SNAP benefits available since the Pandemic. Although we received numerous generous donations from the private sector, from both individuals and businesses, we struggled to keep our shelves full. In addition to our Emergency Food Pantry, we continued to provide Mobile Pantry services on Thursdays, traveling throughout the county delivering food, and in addition we expanded to now bring our Mobile Pantry to Prattsville twice per month on Wednesdays.

Our Free Farm Stand Tuesday program was a huge hit once again- with Greene County residents, both senior citizens and working families with children, lining up hours before our distribution began. We look forward to another successful season of providing healthy, nutritious local produce through this program, and are hoping we can expand upon it. We recently applied for funding through NYS Agriculture and Markets that if granted, would allow us to purchase meats, eggs and dairy from local farmers to distribute through our various food programs, increasing access for low income families.

Our Victim Services program experienced a resurgence after our Greene County facility was closed for over a year. Reopening in July of 2022, as a Safe Dwelling, census has remained steady. We have struggled with staffing despite raising our starting wages and implementing a four-day work week, but as there is no staffing requirement for this model, we have been able to continue to operate. Staff man the residences in both counties from 8 am until 6 pm, five days per week, and a 24/7 on-call number allows access to staff in any emergencies.

Senator Michele Hinchey was able to secure a \$50,000 SAM grant in order to perform much needed exterior repair and paint work on our Greene County domestic violence residence, and then another \$20,000 legislative grant in addition to be used for the same project. While still working out the details of the requirements to have the funds released, we look forward to a spring/summer 2023 start date for the work.

Our Victim Services staff have begun doing prevention programming in area schools in both Greene and Columbia Counties, through facilitating both Girls and Boys Circle Groups. Through these experiences students learn about boundaries, self-awareness, empathy and healthy relationships, etc.

As our Peer Court Program had been on hiatus since the pandemic, staff have spent the past year securing a new Advisory Council, locating space to hold “court” and train volunteers, and reviewing and updating policies and procedures. We expect to have active cases and resume in the fall of 2023.

While Weatherization has struggled with production due to staffing shortages and contractual stipulations, they were extremely successful in installing air conditioners in partnership with the local HEAP department for the expanded cooling program in the spring. As of this past year the program no longer required a doctor’s note in order to qualify to receive a unit. Additional dollars will be made available through NYSHCR in the coming months to assist with weatherization, and expanding on allowable services. As of this writing, both our Weatherization Director and Auditor are Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified, and we are actively seeking a third person for this crew.

Partnerships are held in high esteem at this agency, and staff are happy to be back to meeting our community partners in person following an almost three-year period of virtual meetings. Either myself or staff maintain active roles in the Columbia Greene Housing Coalition, Greene Columbia COAD, Greene County Community Services Board, Greene County Networking, Greene County Rural Health Network, Greene County Chamber of Commerce, Greene County Long Term Care Council, Greene County LEPC, Columbia Greene Workforce Development Board, Columbia Greene Implementation Team, and the Columbia Greene Emergency Food and Shelter National Board.

We look forward to the Greene County Transportation Advisory Board meetings starting up again, as time and time again transportation is identified as a barrier for those looking for employment, to access healthcare, education. Despite the great strides made through Greene County Transit, there are gaps that we need to address.

Working through a global pandemic, and with increased demands on nonprofits from funders and regulators, our staff continue to provide essential services to those in our communities who need assistance and have taken on greater workloads as a result of our being understaffed in several program areas. As an agency we recognize that truly, our greatest asset is our staff. Our staff are here because they believe in our mission, and understand the importance of the work we do.

We continually seek out opportunity for professional development, giving our employees the tools they need to perform their jobs to the best of their ability. While we strive to increase work life balance and to maintain a happy, healthy work environment, the lack of ability to pay competitive wages continues to challenge us. We continue to seek out additional funding sources in order to make up for the shortfalls that exist in our current funding.

Sincerely,

Florence Ohle
Executive Director

Community Action of Greene County Inc.

Senior Staff

Executive Director	Florence Ohle
Controller	Leslie Dawson
Director, Family & Community Services	Barbara Palmateer
Director of Victim Services	Stephanie Spordone
Director, Weatherization Assistance Program/ Facilities Maintenance	Eugene Kelly
Thrift Store Manager	Bryan Hale

Board of Directors

President	Tracy Ricci (representing NYS Assemblyman Chris Tague)
Vice President	Lori Torgersen
Treasurer	Carrie Multari
Secretary	Julie Wade
	Maryann Scalera
	Nancy Barton
	Tracy Jo Szepessy
	Robert Hart
	Julie Wade
	Beth Daly

2022 At A Glance

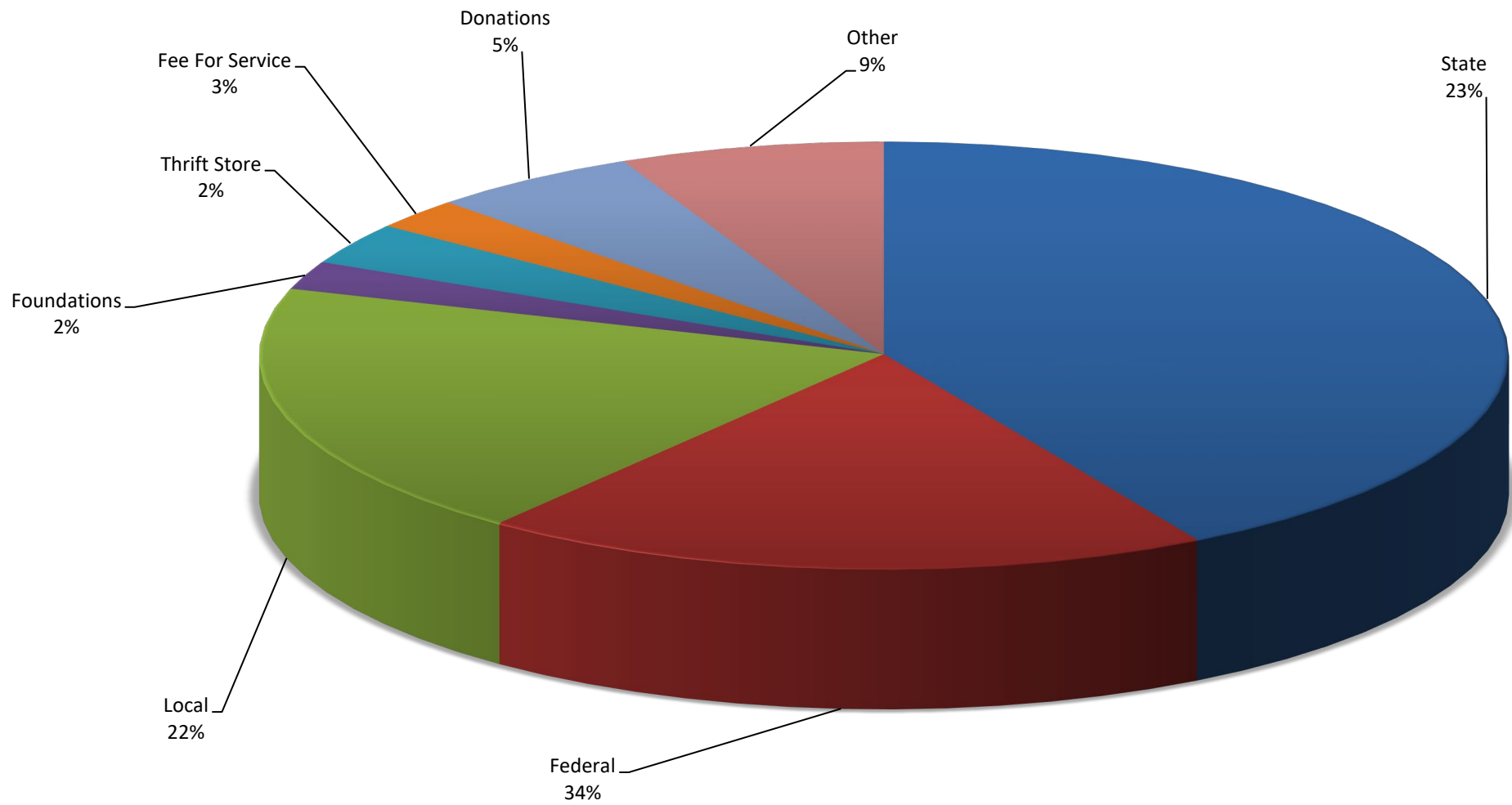
Food Pantry	3,689 persons, 375 unduplicated households, 1,871 food packages, 33,201 meals
Mobile Food Pantry	532 families, 1092 individuals
Feeding America	143 food pickups, 57,223 lbs. of food
Farm to Food Pantry	36 food pickups, 9,388 lbs. of food Lbs. distributed to other pantries – 385
Pay it Forward Thrift Store	136 donations valued at \$52,532 128 vouchers distributed for \$2541.28
Emergency Assistance	43 rent/ security, 29 utilities, 5 internet, 4 home repairs, 18 car repair, insurance, 3 motel stays, 3 mortgage payments, 4 phone bill, 1 tent, 1 college transcript, 106 gas cards, 1 daycare,
Healthy Homes Case Management	17 households
STEHP (Solutions to End Homelessness)	Rapid Rehousing (literally homeless) 13 individuals, 8 households assisted with security or rent Prevention – 153 individuals, 67 households at risk of becoming homeless served with rental arrears
Resource Room (computer, phone, fax use)	12 unduplicated people, 65 visits
VITA	115 tax returns, \$170,552 in federal refunds
Weatherization	7 households completed
Here Comes Christmas	228 children served
Domestic Violence Hotline Calls	682
Shelter – Greene County	15, closed January – June
Shelter – Columbia County	41 residents
Greene – Orders of Protection	95
Columbia – Orders of Protection	99
Victims' Advocacy Program	6 innocent victims of crime were assisted

Community Action
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2022

Funding Source	STATE	FEDERAL	LOCAL	PRIVATE
Columbia County Dept of Social Services			\$ 48,081.10	
Community Services Block Grant - NYS Dept. of State		\$ 276,635.25		
Donations				\$ 159,812.31
Emergency Food & Shelter		\$ 63,625.67		
Federal Family Violence Prevention		\$ 116,388.24		
Fee for Service & Program Income				\$ 68,606.25
Foundation Grants				\$ 62,653.69
Greene County Dept. of Social Services			\$ 104,004.66	
Greene County Legislature			\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
Greene County Youth Bureau			\$ 2,500.00	
Interest Income				\$ 34.02
LDSS (Domestic Violence Per Diems)			\$ 358,937.91	
NYS Division of Housing and Community Renweal	\$ 204,927.39			
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services		\$ 7,089.11		
NYS Legislative Grant	\$ 20,555.00			
NYS Office of Temp/Disab Assist (STEHP & ESGCV)	\$ 790,647.88			
NYS Office of Victims Services	\$ 199,888.98			
Other Grant Funding			\$ 8,644.51	\$ 13,302.68
Pay it Forward Thrift Store Income				\$ 92,771.26
Transitional Housing Income				\$ 10,780.00
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development		\$ 87,148.09		
IN KIND Services, Non Monetary Donations and Services				\$ 154,373.16
Rent, miscellaneous income				\$ 22,587.00
Totals	\$ 1,216,019.25	\$ 550,886.36	\$ 567,168.18	\$ 584,920.37
TOTAL AGENCY INCOME: \$ 2,918,994.16				

Community Action of Greene County, Inc.
Annual Income
2017





Staff and board at recent Strategic Planning session- From left to right, Leslie Dawson, Controller, Barbara Palmateer, Director of Family & Community Services, Stephanie Spordone, Director of Victim Services, Eugene Kelly, Weatherization Director & Facilities Maintenance, Florence Ohle, Executive Director, and Julie Wade, Board of Directors Secretary.



Staff accept a generous donation from Rachel Fisher of Mid Hudson Cable to support our Food Pantry services



Free Farm Stand Tuesday provides fresh, local produce during harvest season to residents of Greene County



Free hot dogs and face painting was offered to community members to celebrate Pay it Forward Thrift Store's 10th anniversary!



Staff received service awards at our Annual Wellness Day at North South Lake. Carol Burnett has worked with us for 15 years, Donnella Cain for 20 years, and Stacey Baitsholts for 17 years!

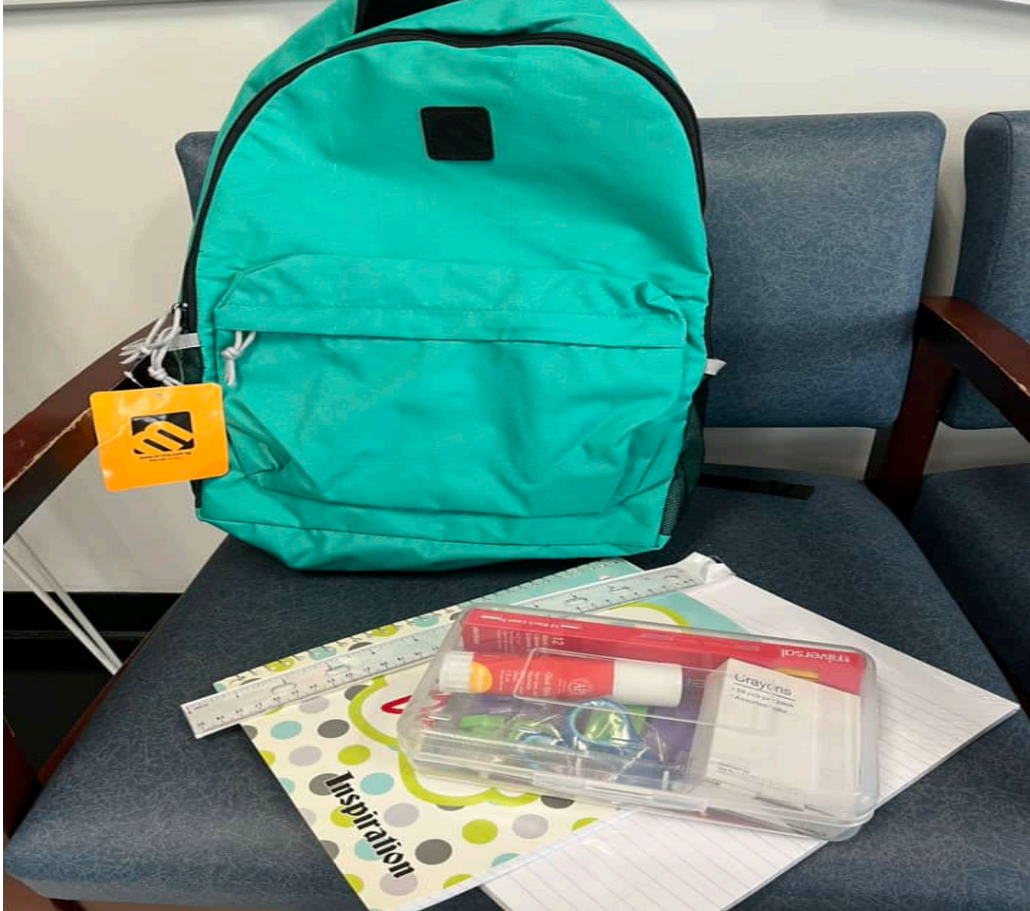


Community partners Clear Channel Radio, above, and Catskill Rotary Club, below, held food drives at the local Price Chopper in support of our food pantry





Staff of the Bank of Greene County opted to donate to organizations, including ours, rather than exchange gift on their "Ugly Sweater Day"



Backpacks and school supplies were distributed this fall to over 200 children in Greene County, taking some of the financial burden from families already strapped by the economy



In total, Senator Michele Hinchey was able to secure \$70,000 for our agency to perform much needed exterior work on our Greene County Domestic Violence residence. Work will commence in spring/summer of 2023.



Like many organizations, the pandemic left us with fewer staff. This small but mighty crew celebrated the holidays together at Creekside this past December.