Creating Opportunities

Access Community Action Agency

2013—2014 Annual Report
Dear Friends:

We hope you will take some time to explore the pages of our 2014 Annual Report, where you will find a window into the opportunities that have been provided for so many in our community. We hope you enjoy the people you meet here.

2014 marked a special year in the history of Community Action in America. It was 50 years ago in August that President Lyndon Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The signing of that Act provided the foundation for the creation of Access, originally named Windham Area Community Action Program (WACAP), less than one year later.

In signing the Act, Johnson declared “unconditional war on poverty”, which committed this nation to “a challenge constantly renewed, beckoning us toward a destiny where the meaning of our lives matches the marvelous products of our labor.”

We are grateful for the wonderful partners who have labored to meet this “challenge constantly renewed”. It is only with you that positive results for local children, adults, families, and communities in need will keep being realized.

So we say “Thank You!” to our board members, program volunteers, staff, donors, community providers, policy makers, and funders. Your support and example strengthens our resolve and inspires us to continue to work to achieve the Access mission to create opportunities that empower people and communities to achieve and sustain economic stability.

We look forward to continuing our shared commitment to build a more just and equitable community.

Tammy Miner
Chair, Board of Directors

Peter DeBiasi
President/CEO
Thank you to our July 2013 – June 2014 Board of Directors!

The Access Community Action Agency Board of Directors consists of dedicated volunteers who generously donate their time and talent in service of the local community. They represent the region’s towns, private businesses, organizations, and constituent groups.

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Our Community Vision
All Windham and Tolland County residents will be economically secure.

Our Mission
To create opportunities that empower people and communities to achieve and sustain economic stability.

Strategic Commitments
Meet Basic Human Needs
Build Capacity to Accumulate Income and Assets
Foster Positive At-Risk-Youth Development

Our Values
Compassion
Empowerment
Respect
Synergy
Accountability
Excellence
Kristen was homeless and at risk of having her three children taken away if she did not find a living arrangement suitable for them. During discussions with CT Dept. of Children & Families, she learned space was available for her family at the Access Emergency Shelter.

Kristen jumped at the opportunity to keep her family together while staying at the Emergency Shelter. "I am now living in a place where I feel safe while pursuing a permanent living situation for me and my three children. This will be their first real home and my family will continue to grow stronger," said Kristen.

Kristen is now pursuing plans to continue her education in the medical field while working full time to support her children. "Kristen has worked extremely hard to get to the end of this journey at the shelter," says Marcia, Emergency Shelter Senior Service Coordinator. "I have had the privilege of knowing her very interesting life history and how dedicated she is to pursuing her career so that her children will know many of the advantages she has experienced and carry this through their lives. She appreciates life on life's terms."
Results That Matter

Because of the help and hope we provided:

- 7,581 households were able to stay warm last winter.
- 5,135 adults and 3,077 children didn’t go hungry because they received supplemental food equivalent to 98,544 meals.
- 26,712 women, infants, and children are healthier by redeeming $1,346,742 worth of healthy food vouchers.
- 600 low-income children are healthier because of 246,416 nutritious meals and snacks provided through their licensed home childcare providers.
- 50 families with 82 children, and 258 single adults were safely housed in our Emergency Shelter.
- 27 families and 12 individuals who were chronically homeless were able to find and maintain permanent housing.
- 68 income eligible seniors lived in 59 safe, high quality affordable one-bedroom apartments.
Building Capacity to Accumulate Income and Assets

When Leslie enrolled in Access’s Climb the Ladder to a Better Future employment program, she was desperate. She had encountered many setbacks in her life, surviving on income from temporary jobs and unemployment funds. But this year she found herself jobless, penniless, and homeless: “I sent thousands of resumes out and I didn’t know what I was doing wrong,” explained Leslie.

Leslie and her two grandchildren spent a short time as Access Emergency Shelter residents. She was referred by staff to Elizabeth, the Climb the Ladder employment specialist. “She really understood where I was coming from,” said Leslie. In only a short time, Leslie got a temporary job. “It was like a stepping stone to get back on my feet,” recounted Leslie.

With the skills she learned from the program, Leslie was able to secure another job, buy a car, and secure an apartment with her family. “Liz saved our lives,” shared Leslie. “If it wasn’t for her, we would be living in the woods somewhere. It was my last attempt and I had no idea what we were going to do or where we were going to be. Now, I have high hopes for the future and I am confident that I can take the skills I learned anywhere.”
Results That Matter

Because of the help and hope we provided:

- 1,686 low-income homes saved on heating costs because of free energy conservation services measures.
- 79 individuals found, and maintained and/or increased their employment.
- 53 individuals were more prepared to find and retain a job.
- 126 individuals are better able to manage their finances.
- Because 180 individuals, organizations and businesses exchanged 1,861 hours of service with each other, they have an improved quality of life, are better connected to the community and have more resources to meet expenses.
Dear Crossroads Staff,

I have been a resident here at Crossroads for four months. I have had my ups and downs. Even though I like to be independent and not take help from anyone, you guys have bent over backwards for me. I have had a rough past couple of years—well, a rough life in general. And I get upset and mad over things really easy... and I don’t like talking to people... and don’t let it all out because I be getting scared. All of you guys have had a positive impact in my life in one way or another. I thank you guys for letting me come to your program... thank you for everything. Hopefully I don’t have to say good-bye yet because I’m not even close to being ready for the real world.

-D., age 18, a resident at Crossroads, our residential supervised apartment program for youth preparing to live on their own once they leave DCF care.
Results That Matter

Because of the help and hope we provided:

- 171 children are better off because 128 divorcing parents learned how to effectively co-parent during and after divorce.
- 35 children or youth were able to remain or were reunited with their parents.
- 57 children were able to maintain positive relationships with their non-custodial parents.
- 17 adolescents were developing independent living skills while living in safe, nurturing group homes.
- 14 youth improved their skills for school success with the support and encouragement of a mentor.
Financial Statement
Meeting Basic Human Needs
WIC, CACFP, LEAP, Emergency Shelter, Food Banks, Energy Assistance, Case Management, Housing Prevention, EFPP, AShoW, AShoF

Fostering Positive At-Risk Youth Development
Residential Services, Mentoring, Parenting Programs

INCOME $10,993,753
EXPENSE 10,848,740

Building Capacity for Income & Asset Accumulation
IDA Programs, ARRA CSBG Projects, Energy Conservation, Workforce Development

INCOME $1,450,795
EXPENSE 1,548,507

Administration & Property

INCOME $1,051,565
EXPENSE 1,142,138

Unrestricted Contributions

INCOME $30,000

TOTALS

INCOME $16,894,452
EXPENSE 16,874,173
Change in Net Assets
$148,613

Funding Sources
Federal Agencies
Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA)
Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
Department of Energy (DOE)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

State Agencies
Access Health CT
Department of Children & Families (DCF)
Department of Social Services (DSS)
Department of Education (SDOE)
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA)
Department of Public Health (DPH)
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)
Judicial Branch
Local Agencies
Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA)
Northeast Utilities (NU)
The Connection, Inc.
Town of Columbia
Town of Killingly
Town of Mansfield
Yankee Gas (YGAS)
United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

2014

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Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority
Liberty Bank Foundation
Reid & Riege Foundation
Staples Foundation
Windham Area Women & Girls Fund
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

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Oscar Swanson Post 67
Arthur Parent Contractors
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Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes
Center for Children’s Advocacy
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Christ Church of Pomfret
Community Health Charities of New England
Control Concepts
Demers Enterprises
Desmarais & Sons
Discovery Zone Learnng Center
Eastern Connecticut State University
Federated Church of Christ/ WCGCS
First Congregational Church
Foster Corporation
Friendly Spirits Liquor Store
Generations Family Health Center
Gerardi Insurance Services
Good Search
Hosmer Mountain Bottling Company

Killingly Intermediate School
King Cadillac-GMC
Landon’s Tire
Linemaster Switch Corporation
Logee’s Greenhouses
MANTEC
McGinn Dental Office
Michaud Flooring
PAP Auto & Hardware
Pizza Pizzazz
Plainfield Pizzarama
Putnam Bank
Putnam Emblem Club # 209
Putnam Ford
Putnam Vision Center
Quikrete-Connecticut
Quinebaug Area Chapter 1264 AARP
Quinebaug Pomona Grange No. 2
R & R Insulators
Rawson Materials
Rogers Corporation
Sarantopoulos & Sarantopoulos, LLP
Sarazin General Contractors
Scott’s Cyclery
St. James Council #2883
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St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church
Storrs Friends Meeting
Taylor Brook Winery
Ted’s Food Center
The Savings Institute Bank & Trust
Town of Andover
Town of Bolton
Town of Brooklyn
Town of Chaplin
Town of Hampton
Town of Pomfret
Town of Putnam
Town of Sterling
Truist
Willimantic Food Co-op

Donations received October 1, 2013 through Sept 30, 2014.
The Promise of Community Action

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,

www.accessagency.org

The Access Community Action Agency is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Service Delivery Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Willimantic</th>
<th>Danielson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1315 Main Street, Suite 2</td>
<td>231 Broad Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willimantic, CT 06226</td>
<td>Danielson, CT 06239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(860) 450-7400</td>
<td>(860) 412-1600</td>
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- Access and Visitation
- Access to Assets
- Administration & Finance
- Case Management
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Climb the Ladder to a Better Future
- Emergency Food Bank
- Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)
- Housing Preservation/Rehabilitation
- Parent Education Program (PEP)
- Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition (WIC)
- Weatherization (Energy Conservation)
- Windham Area Hour Exchange
- Next Steps Supportive Housing
- Supportive Housing for Families®
- Youth Group Homes
- Youth Mentoring

**Senior Services**

- Beckish Senior Center
  - 188 Route 66
  - Columbia, CT 06237
  - (860) 228-0759

- Willington Woods
  - 60A Old Farms Road
  - Willington, CT 06279
  - (860) 429-8777

- Elisha Brook
  - 56 New Park Avenue
  - Franklin, CT 06254
  - (860) 886-0367